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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you satisfied with Gov. Benigno Fitial's explanation relating to the temporary release of a federal detainee?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Exciting Events

The Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College says 2010 will be filled with exciting activities.

LOCAL...Page 13

Raw Images

State prosecutors show graphic images of mangled bodies of victims of a pre-election massacre in the Philippines.

ASIA...Page 22

Farewell Show

Conan O'Brien all but posted a farewell banner on this week's "Tonight" show.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

"As far as I'm concerned, Glenna is out."
—House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio

Lang asks LB chief to VACATE OFFICE

But Senate president says Reyes has existing 'contract'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) asked Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes on Wednesday to "vacate" her office "as soon as possible," but Senate Pres. Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday he has no choice but to honor Reyes' contract, which expires in September 2010.

See VACATE on Page 4

Four MHS students win poster contest

Artwork to be featured in first Marianas lunar calendar

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The artwork of four Marianas High School students were adjudged winners in the poster-making competition conducted by the Western Pacific Region Fishery Management Council in the CNMI.

Along with winning entries from Guam, their visuals will be featured in the first ever 2010 Marianas Archipelago Lunar Calendar that will be produced by

See FOUR MHS on Page 4

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's CNMI onsite coordinator Jack T. Ogumoro, left, poses with the winners of the council's poster making contest during a brief ceremony at Marianas High School in Susupe yesterday morning. From left, Ogumoro, third place winner Jesmyn Sablan, second place winner Elsa Camacho, first place winners Rozette Bunao and Asher Crisostimo, MHS art teacher Wesley Foster, and MHS counselor Cherlyn Cabrera. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Petition seeks to stop Bellas from donating $625K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Many former garment workers signed a petition urging the federal court to stop Garment Workers Trust Fund chair Timothy Bellas from donating the money remaining from the $20-million settlement funds to 14 non-profit organizations.

Workers' advocate Carlito J. Marquez said that

See PETITION on Page 4

US govt calls off summons on first lady Josie Fitial. **PAGE 2**
DPH autonomy bill now law. **PAGE 5**

Local

US govt calls off summons on first lady Josie Fitial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Attorney's Office decided at the last minute not to summon first lady Josie Fitial to testify in the alleged unauthorized release of a federal inmate from the Department of Corrections.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they opted to hold off subpoenaing the first lady in the hopes that they could avoid dragging her into the matter.

O'Malley said they assumed that they could potentially get satisfactory answers from the other people who have been subpoenaed.

He clarified, though, that summoning the first lady is still an option.

"From what I understand, she was a witness to the events that took place at the governor's residence so she may have information that we need. But our hope is that we can get the information that we need without having to subpoena her," O'Malley said.

"I regret any undue stress that has caused for the first lady," said the prosecutor, referring to his disclosure on Wednesday about also summoning Mrs. Fitial, in addition to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The evidentiary hearing was set for Feb. 17, 2010. The U.S. government said the proceeding's primary purpose is to find out whether or not there was anything that might have prejudiced the case against defendant Qingmei Cheng.

O'Malley said they also summoned DOC Commissioner Dolores Aldan, DOC Capt. Arnold K. Seman, Capt. Georgia Cabrera, and Corrections Officer Abigail Borja.

The U.S. government identified Aldan, Seman, Cabrera, and Borja as those who escorted defendant Qingmei Cheng to Fitial's residence in Gualo Rai in the early morning of Jan. 8, 2010, without prior federal authorization and having received the governor's approval.

After administering massage therapy on the governor, the DOC officials brought Cheng back to DOC.

According to a Fitial administration statement, Commissioner Aldan had stated that the DOC staff and the first lady were present during the massage therapy.

Cheng was among 24 Chinese nationals recently arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam on a boat.

The 28-year-old Cheng and Jian Li, 31, male, were indicted on 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S. illegally.

5 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on five beach sites and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from the Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Fiesta Resort drainage, and Chalan Piao beach were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

The Division of Environment Quality analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on Saipan's coast every Wednesday.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deg.gov.mp/selection.aspx?secID=4 and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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134 kids, 56 domestic violence victims aided in '08

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In 2008, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. assisted a total of 134 abused children and 56 domestic violence victims, based on a report it submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on Dec. 31, 2009.

Both groups were assisted by the housing agency through the HUD's Emergency Shelter Grant Program.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Division of Youth Services, which is a recipient of Emergency Shelter Grant funds, is mandated to respond to all types of abuse and neglect of children and domestic violence incidents where children are involved. They also handle runaway and homeless youths.

"The DYS shelter, in program year 2008, served 134 children suffering from various abuse such as physical/emotional abuse, sexual/emotional abuse, physical neglect, physical abuse/neglect, neglect/truancy, physical abuse/timeout, domestic violence and children who were homeless, under respite care, and children who were victims of educational neglect," the report stated.

DYS also coordinates with other families to care for victims under its foster care program.

With financial assistance from the federal agency, NMHC said DYS has the potential to reduce child abuse, juvenile delinquency, youth violence, and drug problems that are plaguing families in the community.

It is the function of the division to promote the well-being of children and youth in the CNMI by working with their families and the community and providing services that include early intervention, crisis intervention and support programs.

Besides abused children, a total of 56 domestic violence victims were also served in the same program year. These victims were housed at the Guma Esperansa, which is also a recipient of the ESG funds to provide a safe housing and support services for victims of domestic abuses, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed that besides 56 female victims, a total of 63 children of these victims were also served by the shelter.

Of the 56 cases, 37 women were victims of domestic violence. Two women were under the witness protection program, and 14 women were victims of human trafficking.

Two other women were victims of sexual assault.

"Statistics show a significant number of victims present in the CNMI. Guma Esperansa continues to accomplish its mission and provide these women and children a safe haven from the violence and assault that they face in their homes," NMHC report stated.

It also indicated that by providing such services and counseling, the shelter has the potential to reduce domestic violence and human trafficking in collaboration with other agencies and the community.

Every year, NMHC receives $2 million in federal assistance from HUD for three specific grants: the Commonwealth Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership Grant, and the Emergency Shelter Grant.

US govt, range master Ogumoro settle lawsuit

The U.S. government and Department of Public Safety's range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro have settled the lawsuit against Ogumoro over the alleged fraudulent transfer of a piece of land to his daughter.

Attorney Douglas Cushnie, counsel for Ogumoro, and assistant U.S. attorney Jessica Cruz, counsel for the U.S. government, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday about the settlement.

Cushnie and Cruz said in court papers that they are working out the final details of the settlement.

With the settlement, the lawyers agreed to request the court to remove from its calendar the hearing scheduled for yesterday. The hearing was supposedly for the U.S. government's motion for summary judgment.

In February 2009, the U.S. government sued Ogumoro for allegedly transferring a piece of land to his daughter despite his failure to pay $3.7 million in damages over a fishing boat oil spill.

Cruz asked the court to void the fraudulent conveyance of Ogumoro's interest in the lot, located on Capital Hill.

The U.S. government requested the court to issue an order requiring Ogumoro to immediately satisfy his civil monetary obligations.

Cruz also moved the court to seize the property and place it on public auction so the proceeds could be paid toward Ogumoro's debt to the U.S.

Ogumoro has denied that the transfer of land was fraudulent. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NMI December visitor arrivals down 12 percent

December 2009 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were down 12 percent compared to December 2008, with mixed results from the islands' primary markets of Japan and Korea.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 30,155 visitors last month compared to 34,181 in December 2008. So far, the fiscal year total to date is 23 percent fewer visitors than the same period in 2008.

Arrivals from Korea registered a significant 25 percent growth in December 2009 over the previous December at 10,157 visitors. This was also a dramatic turnaround from the 40-plus percent decrease in October and November. According to the MVA, the outlook for the growth of Korea arrivals in 2010 looks positive, with the stabilization of the nation's economy and the Korean Won.

Arrivals from Japan were down 24 percent compared to December 2008 with 15,638 visitors. While still lower than last year, December arrivals showed a marked improvement over October and November, attributed to holiday travel. Flights from Nagoya and Osaka were restored mid-month from three times a week to four flights a week. Also, 14 charter flights from five cities in Japan arrived at the end of December.

Following several months of strong showings by China, arrivals dropped 35 percent to 1,302 Chinese visitors in December. The decline was largely due to the temporary suspension of charter flights by airlines following the federalization of immigration on Nov. 28, 2009. However, with the resolution of airline issues flights resumed on Dec. 18.

Russian arrivals were less than half of what they were last year, at 401 visitors (-55 percent), largely due to the weakening of the Russian ruble over the same period. Meanwhile, Guam arrivals were almost identical at 1,578 visitors (-1 percent), and arrivals from the United States were up 30 percent to 792 visitors. ***(MVA)***

Korean Outbound Travel
KTO forecasts 9.5 million outbound travelers for 2009 due to the global economic slowdown, weak Korean Won against the dollar, and swine flu – compared with 12 million in 2008
Year
Visitor No.
%
2000 5,508,242 26.9%
2001 6,084,476 10.5%
2002 7,123,407 17.1%
2003 7,086,133 -0.5%
2004 8,825,585 24.5%
2005 10,080,143 14.2%
2006 11,609,879 15.2%
2007 13,324,977 14.8%
2008 11,996,094 -10.0%
2009f 9,500,000 -21%
No. of Outbound Travelers

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Irene Lee, from the Marianas Visitors Authority's Korea office, speaks during the agency's bi-annual general membership assembly at Saipan World Resort on Jan. 14, 2010. Lee said that Korean outbound travel is projected to increase by 20 percent in 2010—from 2009's 95,000 arrivals to 120,000 arrivals this year.

EMO: Surf remains hazardous until tomorrow

Subsiding winds and seas will allow surf on north and east facing reefs to subside somewhat this morning, Jan. 22, 2010, but surf will remain hazardous through Saturday morning, according to the latest CNMI Emergency Management Office advisory.

It said the high surf warning will remain in effect until 10am today, while the high surf advisory will remain in effect from 10am today to 11am tomorrow, Jan. 23, 2010. The small craft advisory will also remain in effect until 10am Saturday.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and compiled at EMO, "expect pounding surf and life threatening rip currents from high surf of 12 to 15 feet along north and east facing reefs and beaches. Northeast exposures will experience the highest surf, exceeding 15 feet at times. Surf should gradually subside to between 11 and 14 feet Friday morning and is expected to remain hazardous through Saturday morning," EMO said.

Today, east wind is expected at 15 to 20 knots, with wind waves of 3 to 4 ft. and an east swell of 8 ft and north, 9 ft. Tonight, northeast wind is projected at 15 to 20 knots, with wind waves of 3 to 5 ft., an east swell of 7 ft, and north, 7 ft.

EMO is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and east facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening.

"Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions. If boating is necessary, please exercise caution when entering and leaving harbors, inlets and near reef lines," it said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PETITION

From Page 1

306 former garment workers attended their meeting at the Bicol Pavilion on Wednesday night to discuss how to go about preventing the donation of $625,000 to charitable groups.

Marquez said the gathering was held to show the former garment workers' unity in staking a claim on the residual trust fund.

He said they are now consulting a lawyer who is willing to initiate court action to stop the federal court from distributing the money.

According to the petition prepared by Marquez, the judge and or the trustees of the Garment Workers Trust Fund did not consider the physical presence of garment factory workers presently on the island who are experiencing hardships and who were not able to receive the first distribution of funds.

"The trust fund trustees should consider first all the former garment workers who are presently on the island before they decide to donate the residual funds to charitable institutions," Marquez said.

On Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson approved Bellas' report that includes the $625,000 charitable donations to 14-non profit organizations.

Bellas notified yesterday the 14 recipients of the donations that the presentation of the checks will be held on Jan. 28, 2010, at 2pm. Bellas invited the media to attend the presentation.

Of the groups that will get a share of the funds, Karidat and the American Red Cross will receive the biggest amount at $125,000 and $100,000 respectively.

The former Garment Oversight Board established the GWTF. GOB, then chaired by Bellas, was set up pursuant to the settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry. Munson closed the GOB in October 2008 and the GWTF was formed.

Bellas also chairs the GWTF. The other trustees are former California Supreme Court justice Cruz Reynoso and former Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy.

FOUR MHS

From Page 1

the council.

The CNMI winners were Asher Crisostomo and Rozette Bunao, who tied for the first prize title, and Elsa Camacho and Jesmyn Sablan, in third and fourth places respectively. They are all from the MHS Introduction to Art class of Wesley Foster.

In a ceremony yesterday, the four winners were recognized and awarded cash and gift items by organizers. Five other students were also lauded for their participation in the contest.

According to Jack Ogumoro, the council's CNMI onsite coordinator, the competition theme, "Moonlight Talk: Sustaining the Marianas Native Resources," encourages discussion on the importance of sustainable use of land and ocean resources, the lunar cycles that affect them, and their interrelationship with the people and the culture of the Marianas.

Ogumoro said the contest highlights the importance of promoting awareness in the community, especially among future leaders of the islands, and promotes traditional fishing practices that are effective in preserving rich marine resources.

This year, Foster's art class has a total of 15 students for the semester. This is the first time that majority of his students joined the poster competition. Foster said his students spent almost two weeks to prepare and finish their entries.

First prize winners Crisostomo and Bunao both expressed surprise at the honor.

"I'm surprised! I didn't expect to win because I just drew what's on my mind. I didn't think that my work is that good. But I am happy that it was recognized," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that it was his first time to join a poster competition.

Crisostomo said his artwork simply conveyed the message that traditional "night" fishing is part of the island's culture and will forever live on.

For Bunao, the serene beauty of the ocean and the environment inspired her.

Also in attendance at yesterday's awarding rites were MHS counselor Cherlyn Cabrera and Department of Land and Natural Resources public information officer Joe Ruak.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is the policy making organization for the management of fisheries in federal waters surrounding American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, CNMI and the U.S. Pacific remote island areas. The main task of the council is to protect marine resources while maintaining opportunities for domestic fishing at sustainable levels of effort and yield.

VACATE

From Page 1

Reyes' office didn't receive Tenorio's Jan. 20 memorandum until the morning of Jan. 21, Thursday.

The impasse as to whether or not Reyes still has her job wasn't resolved as of last night, and other lawmakers suggested sending a certified question to the Supreme Court.

"As far as I'm concerned, Glenna is out," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* late yesterday afternoon.

Manglona, in a separate interview, said removing Reyes from her post if she still has an existing contract may be grounds for Reyes to sue the Legislature or the presiding officers of the Legislature.

"The issue here now is whether Reyes' extended contract is legal or binding. Until that question is answered then I have to recognize the contract. As far as I am concerned, there's a contract in existence and no one can unilaterally say it's void," he said.

But Tenorio said the Constitution is clear that the leadership of each Legislature has the right to appoint its own Legislative Bureau director.

Replacement?

Tenorio said he is appointing former Rota Rep. Daniel Quitugua as the new Legislative Bureau director to replace Reyes, but Quitugua's appointment also needs the concurrence of the Senate president.

The House speaker said he will formally present Quitugua's name to the Senate president either last night or this morning for his action.

Manglona said the only reason the Legislative Bureau director's post is vacant is if the one holding the post has resigned or the Supreme Court declares the existing contract non-binding.

"There are so many issues that the Senate and the House really need to work together. This is a time to work together on the economy, budget. I don't want to start a fight with the former governor on the issue of the Legislative Bureau director. But as the Senate president, I have no choice but to honor the contract that Reyes has, unless somebody like the Supreme Court declares the contract renewal non-binding," said Manglona.

Manglona said he will discuss the issue further with the House speaker, as well as Reyes.

Reyes, when asked for comment, said she would call *Saipan Tribune*, but as of press time, she had yet to do so. Reyes still worked at her office yesterday.

One of the Legislative Bureau staffers said that as far as they're concerned, Reyes is still the director of the bureau.

Extended contract

On Oct. 22, 2008, then House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan appointed Reyes as director of the Legislative Bureau from Oct. 21, 2008, "and not to exceed Jan. 11, 2010," which was the date when the 17th Legislature was sworn into office. Pangelinan was the representative of the Senate president at the time, Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), who is married to Glenna Reyes.

But in November 2009, Palacios and Pangelinan extended Reyes's contract as Legislative Bureau director, and the contract expires on Sept. 30, 2010.

Tenorio, in his one-page memorandum to Reyes on Wednesday, quoted Reyes' original contract signed by the 16th Legislature's presiding officers or their representative.

Tenorio said in limiting Reyes' term, the 16th Legislature's leadership "quite properly recognized its own right and the right of the leadership of each legislature to appoint its own director under Article II, Section 17(a), of the Constitution."

"As the term and your appointment expired on January 11, 2010, you have not been director of the Legislative Bureau since that date. Therefore, please vacate your office as soon as possible, but not later than close of business today," Tenorio told Reyes in a one-page memo dated Jan. 20, 2010, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

'Thank you'

Tenorio thanked Reyes for her service to the Legislature.

"Please understand that this action is merely one aspect of the orderly change from the previous legislature to the current one, and nothing herein should be taken as reflecting negatively on your performance as director. To the contrary, I thank you for your service to the Legislature and wish you well in your future endeavors," Tenorio told Reyes.

The House speaker said that Reyes may remove any personal property and any personal files, but she may not remove or destroy any official file, document, or other record, including any email message of other electronic record, all of which must be preserved.

Tenorio told Reyes that all official records and other official items, keys, and all passwords required to access any official electronic record shall be turned over or provided to House sergeant-at-arms Pedro O. Towai before Reyes departs the building.

DPH autonomy bill now law

7-member advisory board to assist corporation's CEO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a bill creating a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which is expected to provide autonomy and management flexibility to the Department of Public Health with the creation of a seven-member board of trustees to provide advice and assistance to the chief executive officer.

Fitial signed former Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider's House Bill 16-9, HS1, SD2 on Friday, Jan. 15.

The bill, which Hofschneider co-authored with his former running mate and former House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, is now Public Law 16-51.

The law gives DPH a one-year period to transition into a corporation.

Within 365 days from the signing of the law, the corporation and DPH shall execute a memorandum of understanding for the orderly transfer of personnel, property and funds to the corporation, which will be headed by a CEO who will receive advice and assistance from a seven-member board of trustees.

At this time, press secretary Angel A. Demapan said, Fitial has yet to make any appointments or nominations to fill four of the seven members of the board of trustees.

Also within a year and upon the recommendation of the current Health secretary, the governor may transfer to DPH the functions and duties of the Division of Environmental Quality.

"This is a step in the right direction to improve the delivery of health care in the CNMI," Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment yesterday.

Torres is a former chairman of the 16th House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, which conducted oversight hearings on DPH's operations. Now a member of the Senate, Torres heads the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and vowed to continue working to address DPH's concerns such as making sure the department has the proper doctors and equipment to effectively serve the population.

Benefits

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez earlier cited main benefits of turning DPH/Commonwealth Health Center into a healthcare corporation, including the ability to recruit and retain talented health care professionals.

He said the measure will provide CHC more operational flexibility than is possible under the current structure, will improve transparency and accountability in financial operations, and will improve governance by a knowledgeable board of directors.

Having a healthcare corporation, he added, will also improve management efficiency by allowing managers to better focus on hospital operations.

Under the new law, the corporation is authorized to enter into performance management contracts and other types of contracts with nonprofit entities and private sector firms for the management functions and delivery of healthcare services.

The corporation is intended to be a "professionally managed, nationally accredited, independent public healthcare institution that is as financially self-sufficient and independent of the Commonwealth government as is possible."

It also has the full authority to discharge the functions and duties provided by law to DPH.

It will assume the functions and duties of CHC, the Rota Health Center, the Tinian Health Center, the Women's Clinic, the Children's Clinic, the Community Guidance Center, inter-island medical referral services, and other clinics, operations and functions of DPH, as may be transferred to the corporation by the health secretary.

Chief executive officer, board of trustee

The corporation is to be headed by a CEO appointed by the governor to a four-year term, following receipt of a board nominee.

Under the law, the corporation shall have a seven-member board of trustees that the CEO may call upon from time to time for advice and assistance.

Three members of the board shall be ex-officio voting members. One such member shall be the CEO, while the second member shall be the director of medical affairs, and the third shall be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident who is a representative selected by the corporation's non-physician healthcare professionals.

Four of the members shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Lawmakers who supported the bill said it stands as one of the most significant pieces of legislation considered during the 16th Legislature, representing the first step toward creating a health care system that is independent, professionally managed, financially accountable, and capable of meeting the pressing health care needs of the community.

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98 file campaign reports; Fitial asks for extension

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A total of 98 candidates in the November general elections have filed their campaign financial reports as of yesterday, according to the records of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

There were 110 certified candidates in the Nov. 7 elections. Of the remaining 12 candidates who have yet to submit their campaign statements of accounts, only Covenant Party standard-bearer Benigno R. Fitial has asked for an extension in the submission of the documents, according to CEC executive director Robert Guerrero.

Other candidates will be assessed a penalty of $100 for each calendar day the report is late.

All candidates and political parties are required by law to file their campaign statements of account within 50 days after the election, or by Dec. 28, 2009, for the 2009 general elections on Nov. 7, and Jan. 12, 2010, for the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election on Nov. 23.

Guerrero said the CEC could extend the deadline for filing by up to 15 days.

There were four candidates who ran for the governor and lieutenant governor positions.

Of the first three teams that filed their campaign expenses, the independent team of Ramon Deleon Guerrero and David Borja posted the smallest contributions received at a little over $39,485. The team stated that it received $8,293 in monetary support through fundraising events and $31,192 in general contributions.

Republican Party candidates Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios posted a total of $164,531, with $28,752 coming from fundraising activities and $136,800 from general contributions.

The independent tandem of Juan Pan Guerrero and Joseph Camacho recorded almost the same amount of campaign contributions, $164,160, with $89,008 sourced from fundraisers and $39,490 from general contributions.

Flores tops campaign contributions for mayors

Among all nine candidates for Saipan mayor, newly sworn in Mayor Donald Flores received the biggest amount of campaign contributions in the general election.

Based on his campaign statement of account, Flores recorded $8,906 in total amount received, with $5,571 sourced from fundraising events and $3,335 from general contributions.

Covenant Party mayoralty candidate Marian Tudela posted the second highest contributions, $7,983, with $5,233 coming from fundraising proceeds and $2,650 from general contributions.

Democratic Party candidate Angelo Villagomez recorded receiving $1,057 through fundraising events and $5,852 from general contributions, for a total of $6,909.

Independent candidate Roman Benavente registered a total of $3,121 contributions for his election while fellow independent candidate Juan Demapan posted $900 contributions.

The campaign statement of account shows details of any contribution worth at least $500 received during the election period.

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3 in human smuggling case plead guilty, get probation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court imposed yesterday a one-year probation sentence on three Chinese nationals who were charged with attempting to unlawfully enter Guam through a boat

Junhua Chen, Jian Dong, and Ping Liu were part of a group of 24 Chinese nationals who allegedly tried to enter Guam on Jan. 5, 2010.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman ordered that the three be turned over to a federal immigration official immediately for deportation.

The judge said

If immediate deportation fails and defendants are released pending further immigration proceedings, they were directed to immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin their probation terms.

Wiseman required each of the three to pay $10 in court assessment fee.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler had recommended a one-year probation sentence. The three, through their court-appointed lawyers, agreed.

Chen, Dong, and Liu, were among 22 Chinese nationals separately charged with one count of attempted improper entry by an alien. They signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty yesterday.

According to the plea agreement, on Jan. 5, 2010, the defendants boarded a boat on Saipan to carry out a plan to unlawfully enter Guam. The three paid money to be smuggled from Saipan to Guam by boat.

The two other defendants—Jian Li, 32, male, and Qingmei Cheng, 28, female—were indicted on 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S. Cheng is the controversial masseuse of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Blu Aisho Shiroma stated in his affidavit that he arrested all the defendants based upon probable cause that they attempted to unlawfully enter the U.S.

Shiroma said that on Jan. 5, the defendants met with an undercover ICE agent and boarded a boat with the intent to illegally enter Guam.

Shiroma said the defendants believed that the boat would be driven by the undercover agent that day in order to smuggle them into Guam.

The special agent said that on Saipan on Nov. 6, Dec. 2, Dec. 17, 2009, and Jan. 4, 2010, the undercover agent met the defendants who wanted to smuggle themselves to Guam.

At these meetings, the undercover agent negotiated plans with the defendants to smuggle them from Saipan to Guam by boat in exchange for money.

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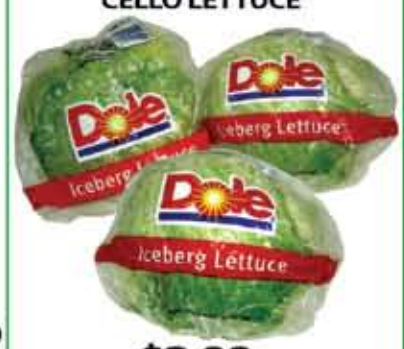

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'Explore thermal energy on Pagan Island'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the Commonwealth Retirees Association, Juan M. Sablan, is urging the U.S. military to explore thermal energy on Pagan Island for its energy requirements when it relocates troops to Guam.

There are about 8,600 Marines and about 9,000 of their dependents that will be transferred from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam starting in 2012.

Because Guam cannot accommodate all training for the relocating Marines, the military looks at Tinian to provide opportunities for training groups.

Tinian is only about 100 miles or 160 km away from Guam and two-thirds of its land is leased to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Sablan, in his letter to the military yesterday, said that since the military will demand more electricity for buildings, homes, and other facilities, he recommends that they consider investing in green energy, which would be beneficial to all.

"Instead of investing in a power plant that is run with diesel, the military should seriously look into investing money in green energy, free energy by utilizing the thermo energy from the active volcano on Pagan Island," Sablan said.

Sablan believes that this investment will not only benefit the military but the entire population of the Mariana islands.

The CRA chairman pointed out that green energy is a top priority of U.S. President Barrack Obama and his administration.

"If the military utilizes the thermo energy from Pagan Island successfully, the people of Marianas will have a cheap and dependable energy source," he said, adding that military would be protected from unpredictable sources and fluctuations in oil prices.

He said it has been the desire of the CNMI to make use of the thermal energy on Pagan but all efforts have been halted by financial concerns.

"The real challenge is the cost of harnessing thermal energy from a volcano and transmitting it to Saipan. It is beyond the financial capability of the CNMI government to make this project feasible," Sablan said.

The Guam military buildup is estimated to cost $15 billion to $20 billion. Besides the relocation, it also involves the construction of a new deep-draft wharf in Apra Harbor, Guam to support a transient nuclear powered aircraft carrier.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 22, 1999

$100M water project backed at hearing

A proposed water desalination plant for central Saipan drew support on Wednesday from residents frustrated over empty faucets which have struck some villages in recent years due to growing population and long dry spell. But some villagers still balked at a cost-sharing agreement offered by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation that will push water bills by as much as 10 times higher than the present rate to finance the $100 million project. Apparently irked by delay, legislators from Precint 3 vowed in a public hearing held late Wednesday to subsidize the project and move ahead with its construction which has been derailed for the past two years due to funding problem.

Panel sets NMC probe over funding

The House committee on Health, Education and Welfare will start an oversight investigation into the Northern Marianas College next week, focusing on operations, scholarships and financial management of CNMI's lone higher learning institution, its chairman said yesterday. The announcement was made after NMC students picketed the governor's office to protest against insufficient funds for the college scholarship program, which may imperil their education this spring semester. "We will get to the bottom why these policies of the college are different from what we tend to hear and read," HEW chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider told reporters.

Jan. 22, 2001

CPA intensifies efforts to entice new carriers

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is taking aggressive steps to encourage more foreign carriers to provide additional air transport services to the Northern Marianas in light of declining visitor traffic to the islands for over two years now. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios is confident the ports authority will be able to attract new carriers to come to the CNMI especially after CPA decided to extend the Airline Incentive Program which gives 50 percent discount on airport charges on specific terms. The CNMI government, through the Economic Recovery and Revitalization's Aviation Task Force, has been trying to encourage other foreign carriers to provide air transport services to the island following Continental Micronesia's decision to stop direct flights to Saipan.

BPL cancels mining permits in Pagan

The Board of Public Lands last week voted to cancel commercial leases held by three mining companies bound under signed agreements to perform pozzolan and basalt extraction on the island of Pagan. According to sources, the board moved to revoke the 20-year contracts following complaints of an apparent lack of progress in the mining projects which has resulted in substantial loss to the local government due to non-payment of permit and royalty fees. J.G. Sablan Rock Quarry Inc., Fareast Mining Inc., and CNMI Mining Inc. were stripped last Thursday by the public lands board of authority to further quarry, mine, remove, or market pozzolan and basalt on the remote island.

Jan. 22, 2002

Projected revenue down by $35.6M

In July 2001, former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio submitted a $229-million budget for Fiscal Year 2002. In October that same year, he submitted a reduced budget of $206 million. Today, the new administration projected revenues at only $193.37 million. Yet despite such a huge drop, the Babauta administration is keeping its fingers crossed that the projections would still go up, with the expected revenue collections coming from the Business Gross Revenue Tax, amusement tax and other government levies that are due this January. These were disclosed during yesterday's briefing at the Office of the Governor, where Gov. Juan N. Babauta told Senate leaders that, although the plunge in revenues have not bottomed out yet, he is doing everything he can to stem the hemorrhage.

US firm plans to operate floating hotel on Saipan

In line with the Babauta Administration's target to bring in one million tourists annually, an Ohio-based company is planning to operate a floating hotel on Saipan that would include new tourist amenities other than suites and restaurants. The Sea Hotel Corporation wants to permanently dock a huge yacht at the bay near the fishing base in Garapan, which would be operated as a hotel. Aside from this, the company also plans to erect suites on an estimated 4-hectare coastal land. The structure would be connected to the yacht.

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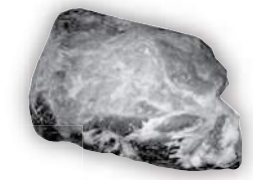

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MEMBER
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EDITORIAL

For Obama's first year, an incomplete

Good-government groups and lobbyists like to give letter grades to politicians, but when it comes to President Obama as he marks the end of his first full year in office, we can only assign him an incomplete.

Contrary to the expectations of some who voted for him, Obama has not established world peace, ended discrimination or wiped out poverty. Moreover, a man whose campaign hammered the theme of "change" hasn't changed all that much. Notwithstanding a significant rally on Wall Street, the economy isn't in much better shape than it was a year ago, and joblessness has gotten worse. The president managed to shepherd through a stimulus package that probably prevented a catastrophic financial crash, but it contained far too much spending aimed at satisfying political agendas rather than providing jobs. Worse, he has done little or nothing to put the federal budget on a more sustainable course and reduce the crushing national debt.

He deserves points for backing the most significant healthcare reform since Medicare, but that job isn't finished. Ditto on a climate change bill and his efforts to stop nuclear proliferation.

Obama has proved to be a cautious leader who makes incremental changes within the system, rather than blowing it up as some backers had hoped. His failure to honor campaign promises has disappointed many, especially on the left, who think that when the president vowed to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center within a year or provide a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants, he was obliged to make good. The website PolitiFact.com keeps a running tally of Obama's campaign promises: Out of 500 promises, only 124 have been kept so far.

Obama can rightly be faulted for implying he could be all things to all people, for setting unrealistic deadlines and for presenting himself as a world-changer when in reality it's tough even for the president of the United States to change the world. But even that doesn't explain why his approval rating has dropped from about 67 percent a year ago to 50 percent today, the lowest rating at the end of a president's first year since Ronald Reagan. Voters who blamed President Bush for high joblessness in 2008 are blaming Obama for it now. No president can expect high ratings when unemployment stands at 10% and rising.

We'll give Obama the benefit of the doubt on the economy; enthusiasts who expected him to single-handedly reverse the worst collapse since the Depression after only a year in office need to switch to decaf. And we're not bothered that Obama hasn't proved to be Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., George S. Patton and Superman wrapped into one. The previous administration put the country on a reckless course toward financial disaster and endless war. Obama has restored American prestige abroad, instilled confidence in the financial system and started extricating the military from a quagmire in Iraq, all while taking important regulatory steps to protect the environment and fend off global warming. The president still has much to do, but all in all it's not a bad start.

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US should not forget Iraq

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.

Haiti, the economy, health care, suicide bombs in Kabul. How tempting it must be for the Obama team to consign Iraq to the back burner.

But, while insufficient attention was being paid, Iran has been cleverly meddling in Iraqi politics in the run-up to the March 7 elections, in ways that could spark new Shiite-Sunni violence. More than 500 parliamentary candidates, including some top Sunni politicians, have been banned from running, in a shady process that was probably encouraged by Tehran.

The events leading up to this ban clearly illustrate the importance of an intense U.S. focus on Baghdad if we really want to withdraw our troops by the end of 2011.

The ban was imposed by a controversial commission of questionable legality, whose leading members have close ties to Tehran. Senior Iraqi politicians say they are uncertain as to how this panel acquired the power to ban candidates, who drew up the lists, or why Iraq's election commission endorsed the ban.

But here's the kicker: The chairman of the Accountability and Justice Commission, Ali al-Lami, is a close political ally of the notorious Ahmed Chalabi. (Lami also spent time in U.S. detention on charges of organizing a 2008 Baghdad bombing that killed two Americans.)

You'll recall that Chalabi is the man who persuaded the Bush team to invade Iraq. (He had a direct phone link to Dick Cheney.) He also provided the CIA with defectors who supplied faulty intel on Saddam's alleged WMD. Ultimately, U.S. officials fell out with Chalabi, in large part because of his close ties to Tehran.

Many Iraqis believe the ban on candidates is intended to ensure success for Shiite political blocs close to Iran (whose regime has solid experience in vote-rigging). Some Iraqi pols believe Chalabi is setting himself up as a compromise candidate for prime minister, with Iranian support.

There is more to this story, of course, than Chalabi's ambitions of a political comeback. Most of the banned candidates were Sunnis linked to the nationalist, secular Iraqiya coalition, including one of its senior leaders, Saleh al-Mutlaq. They were accused of past or present connections to the banned Baathist party of Saddam Hussein.

But unlike many Sunnis, Mutlaq chose early on to take part in the new Iraqi political process, and he has been a member of parliament for the past four years. How can one now justify banning him—or the current minister of defense, also a Sunni—from running for office?

Unless, that is, the goal is to prevent Iraqiya from amassing a parliamentary bloc large enough to give Sunnis substantial influence—all the more so because the majority Shiite vote is likely to split. Perhaps that's why Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki endorsed the ban, and other Shiite leaders haven't publicly opposed it.

To be fair, there is still genuine paranoia among many Shiites that minority Sunnis—who were in power under Saddam—could stage a comeback. But the facts on the ground—Shiites and Kurds control the army, for example—rule out such an occurrence.

More to the point, the key Iraqi achievement of the past three years—helped by the U.S. troop surge—was the end of the Shiite-Sunni civil war, along with the Sunnis' decision to stop boycotting elections and seek their rights via the ballot.

The candidate ban doesn't rule out Sunnis' participation, but it will lessen their clout and convince them that they won't get a fair shake. And the ban won't renew the civil war, but it could provoke more violence. Already, al-Qaeda-style terrorists are seeking to weaken the Shiite-led government with preelection bombings.

The ban also leaves the clear impression that, behind the facade of Iraqi politics, Iran pulls the strings.

Which brings us back to the need for the Obama team to pay close attention. If these elections take place with full Sunni participation, they will mark a Middle East milestone—a shift in power achieved by a fair ballot, not by a rigged process or coup.

Iraq's politics are just beginning to cross sectarian lines, as many voters tire of religious parties. If the White House wants to leave behind a modest success story, it must work hard to see that this process is not derailed.

The U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, Christopher Hill, achieved much in the Balkans and Asia, but he lacks Mideast experience. Vice President Biden has been trying to moderate the ban, with no success yet. Time is short, and U.S. influence is waning. A more intense behind-the-scenes effort is needed, now.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Oily loop-de-loop

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

If you've ever visited my tidy little blog, you've noticed that it features a constantly updated quote for oil prices. Not stock quotes. And, no, not gold prices. And, no, not even cheeseburger prices, which are, I'll admit, a subject very near to my heart.

But oil is even closer. The reason that I've kept oil prices on the blog for several years is that oil is the main wild card in the CNMI economy that gives me the screaming-Mimi worries. I'm giving it the hairy eyeball now, because it's always a nagging issue for me, such is the boring nature of my barren life.

Most normal people have been too busy digging out of their post-holiday cleanup to notice that oil markets did a weird loop-de-loop recently. Earlier this month, oil spiked to over $80 a barrel, then swooped down to its current level of about $78.

To put this in perspective, the price was about $41 a year ago.

Gulp. That's got my attention. How about yours? Filling up the Ford's gas tank, once again, carries a bit of wallet-sting now.

Incidentally, I'm giving you approximate prices here, based on what are called near month futures for West Texas Intermediate crude. My goal is general economic perspective here, looking back merely one year.

We all think of Uncle Sam as being exposed to oil price spikes, and he is, but the U.S. is actually the world's third largest producer of oil. Saudi Arabia is first, incidentally, and Russia is second (as of mid-2009). And, last I checked, the U.S. was importing more than it was making, so it's still a net importer.

Still, the Commonwealth doesn't have a drop of the stuff, we're 100 percent importers, and that's a vulnerable position to be in.

As for the larger businesses in the Commonwealth, they can, if they have the sophistication, hedge against increases in fuel prices (to some extent) by using financial derivatives (futures, for example), but this isn't something the average consumer would do.

But, as sort of a rough hedge, I guess the man on the street could buy stock in oil companies if he thought oil was heading for an increase, but this just might mean trading one set of uncertainties for another, so don't look to me for any answers on this note, you're on your own.

Somebody will e-mail me and tell me I "forgot" to mention oil ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds), which have received a lot of attention lately. But, again, you're on your own, I have nothing to say about them one way or another, so I mention this realm merely to mention that I don't want to mention it.

But overall, here is what I have noticed about oil: Most people totally ignore it, unless it's hitting high prices, at which point there is a mad scramble to come to terms with it. Newspapers and TVs and web sites and barstool "experts" go into blah-blah-blah overdrive, and serve to get everybody wound up into a tizzy.

But, in such times, if you want to keep your head while everyone else is losing theirs (and blaming it on you, as Kipling says...), you might just want to keep an eye on oil prices, not so you can pull off some brilliant financial speculation, but just so that you can have a general feeling for what's going on out there. That way, you can have a clear perspective when the hotheads start to belch their steam into the discourse.

Although I might have an opinion or two about where oil prices may go in the long term, those aren't for me to inflict on you, since it would make me boring company and you wouldn't invite me back to your next party. And as for the short term, I have absolutely no idea whatsoever where oil prices will zig or zag; if I could predict such things, I'd be so rich I could buy the Nauru Building and paint the mother pink.

Oil prices are like a rattlesnake: You can't fight it, but you don't want to turn your back on it, either. The CNMI is at the vulnerable end of the spectrum on this note.

Letters to the Editor

Geronimo!

As I have predicted some time back, when the going gets tough over at the Zoning Office, the director gets going.

Once again we have the spectacle of the Zoning director bailing out, leaving unworkable plans in his wake. The problem, as I see it, is we keep picking people who have no stake in the zoning outcome as leadership in his department.

Reason would suggest that we look at someone who understands the local lifestyle, has a clue about the island's geography and cares about fairness. Drawing fanciful maps which ignore traditional usage does not make our island a better place for us or our tourists. We need to keep more than education in mind when choosing our next administrator. An educated fool with his head in the sand does us no good.

Can we please pick someone who has his finger on the pulse of our island? Where we have come from, where we would like to go instead of a mindless adherence to a map drawn on whims and guesses. Then we need to task that person with rewriting the Zoning regulations. Otherwise, we will see another repeat retreat to the mainland once things go wrong again over in Dandan.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres
17th Legislature
Capital Hill, Saipan

Reputation

When our leaders go to work, we expect results that better the laws that shape our Commonwealth. When popular laws are made, the CNMI gets lauded for doing something righteous and wins the admiration of our neighboring Pacific nations, not to mention the United States. But when our leaders fail to display transparency and accountability, Washington throws the book at us and, of course, they lose the trust of their people. What sometimes can be a miniscule problem can be the talk of the town or the talk of the world.

What transpired in the past weeks regarding the federal inmate who took a short trip out of prison not just ruined the CNMI's reputation but the well-being of every CNMI citizen. What if the DOC convoy got ambushed by the inmate's friends, if any, at gunpoint, to free one of their own? That short trip could have been very critical. I, for one, felt ashamed of this incident and ashamed to the whole world. The world, now knowing where Saipan is, will label us one of those nations that abuse their powers in government. Not only did we sue Washington but also went out of our way and did something so outrageous.

This coverage is much more interesting than a U.S. governor or lawmaker caught for infidelity. For the longest time our government tried to advertise our islands for the sake of stabilizing tourist growth. Now we get to be the talk of the town or, should I say, talk of countries. As our great commonwealth try endlessly to promote tourism, we instead brought the world hot water news on a national level. Media outlets throughout the world are loving it.

Back in 1997, I attended the FFA 70th national convention and tried explaining to all FFA representatives where the CNMI is. Now, again, we are on the radar with a twist. This is certainly not how I want the world to hear about us. In due time the federal court will deliberate and see to it the appropriate charges. For the meantime, I suggest our legislators practice their authority to review the "ethics code on employer conduct" and, of course, do so in a "fair but just" manner. Now, it's all about the waiting game.

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

50 years later, lasers can do many tricks

By CURT SUPLEE
Special to The Washington Post

This year marks the 50th anniversary of one of the most portentous events in the history of science: the creation of the laser. Like many a transformative development, it was met initially with thunderous public indifference, although there were a few mutterings about "death rays." A number of techno-pundits regarded the upstart gizmo as basically a glorified parlor trick, a "solution looking for a problem," as Charles Townes, who won the Nobel Prize for pioneering the idea, later wrote.

Half a century later, lasers check out our groceries, read and write CDs and DVDs, guide commercial aircraft, enable eye surgery and dental repairs, target weapons, provide worldwide communications, survey the planet, print documents, cut fabric for clothing and metal for tools, make powerful pointers for PowerPoint slides and are now poised to ignite nuclear fusion, among scores of other uses.

Who knew? Certainly not Albert Einstein, who had predicted the laser effect way back in 1917. By then, physicists understood that virtually all the light you see is produced by a process called spontaneous emission. Zap a few atoms with the right amount of energy—including energy from light itself—and their electrons will absorb the energy and jump up to excited levels, the original "quantum leap."

But they won't stay there. That's because, as the parent of any teen-ager can tell you, it is the natural tendency of things in this universe to preferentially seek the lowest energy condition, which is why water always flows downhill, shoelaces never re-tie themselves and your check is still in the mail. So the excited electrons soon drop back to lower levels; in the process, they spontaneously shed the surplus energy in the form of photons, the smallest individual units, or quanta, of light. The size of the drop determines the wavelength of the emitted photon. That's how light emerges from a flickering campfire, the surface of the sun, the bulb in a lamp or the screen of your TV.

Einstein's idea was that there could be a second, very different kind of emission in certain types of materials—not spontaneous, but stimulated. It would work like this: Suppose that you had already excited the electrons in the material's atoms until they were trembling on the brink of emitting photons. But before they did so, what would happen if you whacked those atoms with incoming photons from another source that were exactly equal in energy to the ones the electrons were about to emit? In that case, Einstein figured, instead of absorbing the incoming photon, each atom would be stimulated to give off a photon identical in every way to the incoming photon while leaving the original unchanged.

Not only would the emitted photon be precisely the same wavelength as the one that stimulated it, but its wave peaks and troughs would be perfectly in phase (a condition called coherence) and it would be traveling in the same direction. Those twin photons would then fly off to stimulate more nearby atoms, which would emit yet more photons in a glowing profusion of luminous clones.

Hence the term "laser": Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.

By the mid-1950s, scientists had identified several excellent materials and had recognized that putting a mirror on each side of the laser medium would drastically increase the output, reflecting the photons back and forth, and producing more stimulus and more emissions on each transit. If one of the mirrors was partially transparent, a stream of photons would emerge from that end—the now familiar laser beam. Finally in May 1960, Theodore Maiman, a physicist at Hughes Research Laboratories, constructed the first laser that emitted light in the visible range.

Today there are dozens of designs exploiting all three of the distinctive properties of laser light. The narrowly defined wavelength allows a laser scanner at the grocery store to bounce its beam off a bar code and read the result when the store lights are on. Indeed, the outputs of different lasers are so sharply differentiated that you can run signals from a bunch of them through the same fiber optic cable simultaneously and still separate them easily at the end. The unidirectional tightness of laser light makes it ideal for surveying because, unlike a flashlight beam, it doesn't diverge much over distances. Even really long distances: Laser light from the surface of the Earth, bouncing off a reflector placed on the lunar surface by Apollo astronauts, has revealed that the moon is receding from our planet by about an inch and a half a year.

Finally, the beam's coherence makes it stunningly powerful. A laser drawing a couple of kilowatts (slightly more than your home hair dryer) can cut through an inch of carbon steel. But that's nothing compared with another device you own, along with every other American taxpayer. Out in California, researchers at the Department of Energy's National Ignition Facility are about to concentrate 192 laser beams totaling 500 trillion watts on a capsule of hydrogen the size of a pencil eraser. If it works, the power of the lasers will shove the hydrogen atoms together hard enough to ignite nuclear fusion, creating (if you could see it) a microscopic star—and with it, some people believe, the prospect of limitless energy for society using the same energy source that fires up the sun. One of these days. Perhaps.

But not this year, which will leave you plenty of time to take advantage of the 50th birthday activities surrounding LaserFest (see www.laserfest.org), the worldwide celebration of civilization's leading light.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloud with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloud with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°°	▲85° ▼77	▲86° ▼77°

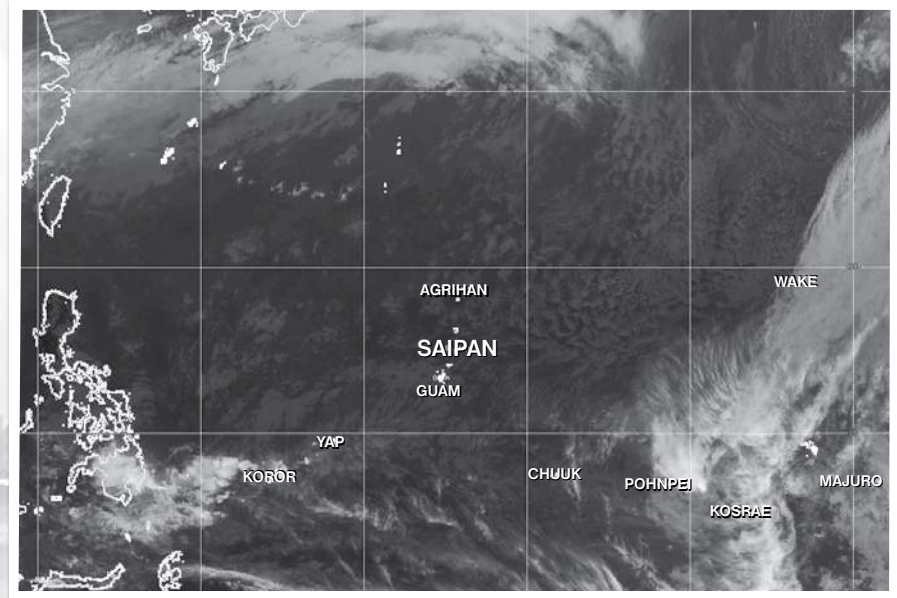
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼74
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲69	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲29	▼16
Hong Kong	Rain	▲64	▼57
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼69
London	Showers	▲46	▼37
Los Angeles	Showers	▲54	▼42
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼71
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼58
Miami	Showers	▲83	▼63
New York	Cloudy	▲38	▼32
Osaka	Dreary	▲43	▼29
Paris	Showers	▲43	▼40
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲38	▼18
Rome	Sunny	▲48	▼26
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼36
San Francisco	Rain	▲53	▼43
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲23	▼10
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲38	▼28
Washington, DC	Rain/Snow	▲36	▼29

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 THURSDAY JANUARY 20, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N177E to 17N171E then continues as a shear line to near 11N163E. Extensive cloudiness and areas of rain and showers are found along and northwest of this boundary as far as a line from 25N168E to 19N165E to 11N159E. This includes Wake Island but ends north of Pohnpei. A shear-line remnant extends west-southwestward from south of Guam near 10N145E to 5N130E. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 150 miles north of this line including Palau and Yap. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N139E to 3N154E then northeastward to a weak circulation east of Pohnpei at 7N162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found northeast of Pohnpei between 8N and 11N from 159E to 164E. A surface trough extends from a weak circulation east of Majuro at 6N176E to about 3N180. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east and southeast of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 8N174E to 3N178E to EQ179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:49 AM	11:38 PM
Saturday	11:28 AM	
Sunday	12:12 AM	12:30 PM
Monday	1:01 AM	1:26 PM
Tuesday	1:56 AM	2:26 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 13, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	1,3,4,5,6,7 via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2,3,4,5,6,7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7 via NRT
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3,6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:0pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4,6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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NMC's student govt looks ahead in 2010

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, ASNMC president Miles Rodriguez, vice president Daniel Kintol, secretary Stacey Demapan, and treasurer Mindy Park.

Aside from other positive developments at the Northern Marianas College, including the increase in enrollment numbers from last spring semester, the college has a jewel that continues to flourish. The Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College, the college's student governance body that was first established back in 1986, developed a mission to promote higher education, represent student rights, and advocate student needs and concerns.

The current goals of ASNMC have not changed. It continues to help prepare students at NMC to become responsible citizens by providing educational and social experiences and continues to serve as the unifying force of all student activities.

According ASNMC president Miles Rodriguez, the goals for calendar year 2010 will be filled with exciting activities that will keep students busy. Some of the events lined up include Charter Day, Health Awareness Fair, Spring Kickoff Bash, Student Assemblies, Leadership Conferences, and the Graduation Celebration, to name a few.

"We are looking forward to another exciting year and a complete agenda," said Rodriguez. "We are also inviting those who have not enlisted as members to join our organization as volunteers."

Officers of ASNMC include president Rodriguez, Daniel Kintol (vice president), Stacey Demapan (secretary) and Mindy Park (treasurer). They are responsible for the organization of student meetings and student assemblies. According to Rodriguez, the organization conducts meetings on a monthly basis at the NMC Student Center. The goals of the meetings are not only to improve communication with students and enhance leadership skills, but also plan out activities that everyone can enjoy.

"Miles and the rest of ASNMC officers make us all very proud. They have been a great contributor in our efforts for continuous improvements of academic programs and college activities. I hope that more students will find time to assist with upcoming activities," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera.

ASNMC currently has many volunteers throughout the semester. They expect this number to grow in the calendar year as more students express interest in the organization. *(NMC)*

WANTED: LOVING HOME CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PAWS has a little black pup that needs a home. Paradise Island Animal Hospital is currently boarding a little black female pup that is in need of a good and loving home. The pup is about 5-6 weeks old. She has received her vaccinations and deworming. If you or someone you know is interested in adopting this little gal, contact Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-9669.

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JOETEN GRAND PRIZE WINNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Forcina Indalecio Banca, third from left, was the lucky winner of a brand new Ford Ranger from Joeten's 60th Anniversary Grand Prize Raffle. "I've never won anything this big before so I'm just so happy. My relatives had heard my name being announced on the radio. I didn't believe it so I just came to Joeten Susupe to see if it was true," she said. The winning ticket came from Joeten Susupe. Banca is shown here being congratulated by, from left, JJ Tenorio, Joeten director Clarence Tenorio, Dolly Muna and Darlene Macaranas.

Ex-immigration official is new US Passport Office chief

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham has appointed former Division of Immigration official Jenny C. Norita as U.S. Passport Office supervisor.

Norita assumed her new post on Jan. 1, 2010.

"I am confident in her ability to carry out this duty. Please extend your cooperation to Ms. Norita as she assumes this responsibility," Buckingham said in a Jan. 20 memorandum to executive branch department and activity heads.

Norita worked for the now defunct Division of Immigration for nearly 20 years, until the federal government took over federal immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

Just like the former Division of Immigration, the U.S. Passport Office is also under the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

Many of the former immigration officials and employees were transferred to different agencies.

Becky Santos, who also worked at the Division of Immigration for some 18 years, moved to the U.S. Passport Office last year. She became the acting supervisor of the agency when the former chief, Ann Doris M. Babauta, left the post to move to the U.S. mainland.

Babauta held the post from July 2003 to November 2009. Prior to being the office's chief, Babauta was connected with the office for 11 years.

Santos, in a brief phone interview yesterday, said that she was the acting U.S. Passport Office supervisor from Nov. 4 until Norita's appointment.

Norita was off island yesterday, and is expected to be back this afternoon at the office, which accepts and processes all U.S. passport applications in the CNMI.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Former Air Vanuatu chair owes airline $230,000

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI)—It has been established in Vanuatu that a former chairman of Air Vanuatu, Charles Lini, owes the airline US$230,000. The board of directors says the debt stems from Mr. Lini, who as a son of the late prime minister, Walter Lini, granted charter flights to political associates. The board has written three letters asking him to settle the debt or he will face legal action. Lini says 60 percent of the debt was incurred by his political friends, who have promised him to pay for the charters for their parties congresses but to date have failed to do so. The board is also investigating the alleged fraudulent issuing of tickets worth 50,000 US dollars.

Fiji regime reiterates claim of absolute control

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI)—Fiji citizens are again being warned to behave and watch what they say, with the military saying it will not tolerate any anti-government activities. The Land Force commander, Brigadier Pita Driti, says not only Methodist church members should take heed of the warning, but all people because the Public Emergency Regulation is still in place. Brigadier Driti says the administration will hunt detractors down and make sure they were taken to task for their words or actions. He says people should be careful and keep still. He has also called to support the leaders and do not do what might be regretted later in life.

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MIMC sets public forum on Guam buildup EIS

The Military Integration Management Committee, along with the Office of Economic Adjustment and Guam Advisory Consulting Team, will be hosting a public workshop/forum on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010, from 9am to 11am at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

This event will also be broadcast live to both Tinian and Rota through a VCT provided by the Northern Mariana's College and sponsored by NMC and IT&E. The NMC campuses on Tinian and Rota will allow the public to view the forum live and ask questions. The purpose of this workshop is to break down the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that was presented last week by the Joint Guam Program Office.

The ACT will present in more basic terms the 11,000-page EIS. Unlike the JGPO public hearing and comment sessions that were held last week on Tinian and Saipan, this event allows the public to ask direct questions which will be answered by the ACT or OEA. The MIMC would like to encourage anyone who wants a brief overview of the EIS to read the Executive Summary at www.guambuildupeis.us. While only 40 pages, the executive summary does offer a good basic understanding of the plans for both Guam and Tinian.

The JGPO public hearings had a fair turnout, and the majority of CNMI residents were very encouraged by the potential economic opportunities that the military realignment has to offer. The MIMC encourages the public's participation in this event as the comment period for the Draft EIS ends on Feb. 17, 2010, at midnight EST. Now is the time to get involved so that our voices and concerns can be heard.

If you are unable to attend or would like to submit your questions ahead of time, feel free to e-mail them to MIMC Coordinator Tom Linden at cnmi.mimc@commerce.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Free lecture on high-efficiency windmills

Physics professor John N. Hait will be conducting a free science lecture on making high-efficiency windmills this Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, at 6pm, at the American Memorial Park's Visitors' Center. This alternative energy lecture for fun and profit will focus on timely and practical applications for local use, with the aim of making the island a showcase of Earth-compatible energy generation.

For more information, go to www.EinsteinCode.info. Also, learn Science the easy way with online poetry. ***(PR)***

Retirees' group seeks new members

The newly incorporated Commonwealth Retirement Association is encouraging every member of the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan to join the association in a bid to create a stronger voice for all CNMI retirees and Fund members.

In a statement issued yesterday, the CRA board of directors said that registration for membership is now ongoing on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands.

"I am encouraging every member of the defined benefit plan…to register with CRA. If you are retired, presently employed and contributing to the Retirement Fund or a surviving spouse of a retiree, you are qualified to register with CRA," said CRA board chair Juan M. Sablan.

Membership registration is free and monthly dues have not been established nor assessed at this time.

"Please register with the CRA so that we can have a stronger voice as a group to influence policy to improve the financial status of the Retirement Fund. We can also have more power as an organized group to make recommendation with existing and future legislations to better the operation of the Retirement Fund and to improve its programs for the members of the defined benefit plan," said Sablan.

CONTACT INFO

- Agnes McPhetres, 285-2726
- 234-0310 ext. 100
- Juan M. Sablan, 287-5877
- Juan I. Tenorio, 483-4837
- Oscar C. Camacho, 234-6245
- Peter J.L. Igitol, 287-7554
- Ron Barrineau, 322-4785
- Richard Waldo, 285-6589

You may pick up and drop off the registration form from any of the members of the CRA board of directors or mail the form to CRA, P.O. Box 7978 SRVB, Saipan MP 96950. ***(PR)***

INVITATION FOR BID

The United States Department of Agriculture/ Natural Resources Conservation Service will be accepting bids for Waterway A, B & C construction work for the Kagman Watershed project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Performance time is 760 days after the receipt of Notice to Proceed. A pre-bid meeting/site showing will be held at **10:00 am (Saipan Time) Friday January 29, 2010** at the Santa Soledad Church, Cha-cha Rd., Kagman. Submitted bids must be received before **2:00 pm (Hawaii Standard Time) Friday February 19, 2010** at: USDA Natural Recourses Conservation Service, P.O. Box 50004, Honolulu, HI 96859-0050. The full bid package and all other information may only be obtained and downloaded at the following website after **January 21, 2010.** (Hawaii Standard Time)

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=main&mode=list&tab=list

(Search with solicitation number: AG-9251-S-10-0001, select packages tab to view full bid package.)

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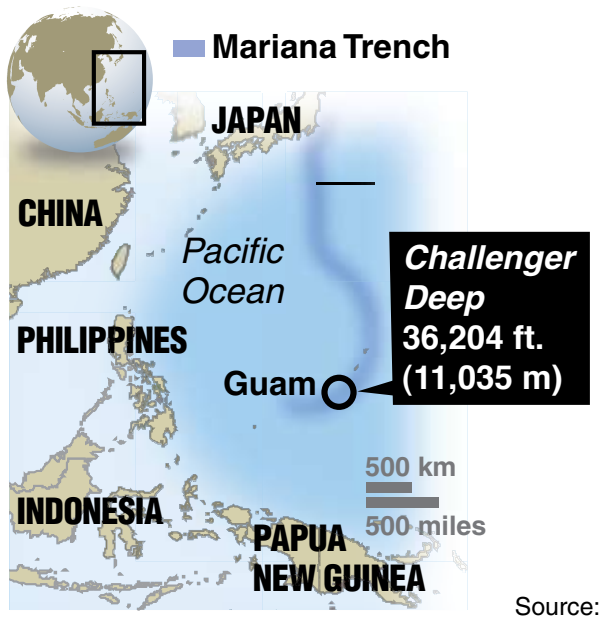
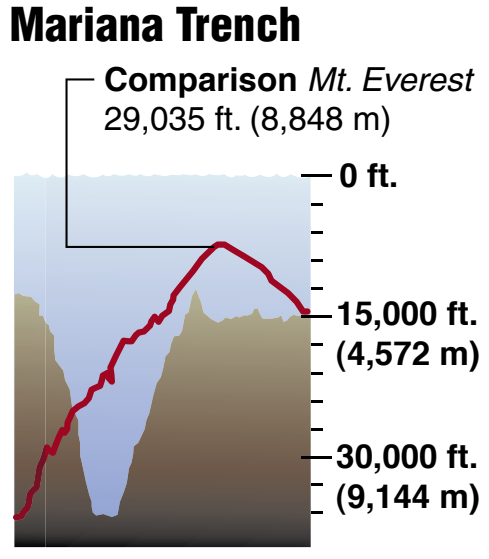
Rota: 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach
(First 100 participants will receive a FREE visor)

Kilili resolution honors 50th anniversary of Mariana Trench dive

Sablan

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) is introducing this week a congressional resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the deepest descent into the ocean. On Jan. 23, 1950, the U.S. Navy bathyscaphe *Trieste* reached the bottom of the Mariana Trench with two explorers aboard, USN Capt. Don Walsh and Swiss scientist Jacques Piccard. The resolution kicks off a series of events throughout the year that Sablan hopes will bring positive attention to the Northern Marianas and the newly created Mariana Trench Marine National Monument.





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Source: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, ESRI
Graphic: Junie Bro-Jorgensen, Scott Bell

"The *Trieste* dive was such a remarkable feat of science and technology – which has never been repeated," said Kilili.

"Not only is the bravery and accomplishment of Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard important to celebrate, but this historic anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the Mariana Trench National Monument and the world-class resource right off our shore.

"I am hopeful that the *Trieste* anniversary is just one of many ways that we will find to encourage people to visit the Marianas now that the Trench has been declared a place of special scientific and educational importance."

Sablan is schedule to meet today with the representatives of the Marianas Visitors Association, the business community, and Friends of the Monument to share with them the resolution and other activities he is working on in Washington to commemorate the dive.

The congressman has also kept Gov. Benigno R. Fitial apprised and invited the full participation of the Governor's Office in planning the anniversary year.

"I would hope that parallel to the events in DC there will be efforts here in the Marianas to raise awareness of the importance of the *Trieste* dive and bring people here to experience the wonder of our ocean resources," he said.

The *Trieste* was approximately 50 ft. long and consisted of several large buoyancy chambers above, with a pressurized sphere, 6.5 feet in diameter, slung beneath for the two crewmen. The dive to the record-breaking depth of 35,761 feet took over eight hours to accomplish. No manned vessel had ever before reached such a depth. And only in 1995 and 2009 was the feat repeated by unmanned, robotic craft.

Sablan's resolution also recognizes the ongoing value of ocean exploration and the importance of marine research, oceanography and ocean education.

"I think this commemoration underscores the value of having a Mariana Trench National Monument Visitors Center in our islands."

Sablan introduced legislation last year to establish a visitors center in the Northern Marianas.

"Our young people and tourists should have a place where they can learn of the wonders of the Trench and see or experience something of what Walsh and Piccard experienced in the Challenger Deep 50 years ago this week." ***(PR)***

TV program for separating or divorcing parents to be aired

The CNMI's Family Court Division has developed a television program for parents who are separating or divorcing.

The show will run on KMCV on Jan. 25 and 26, 2010, at 6pm on Channel 14. The session is conducted by Family Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo from the CNMI Superior Court and Linda Graf, national certified counselor, certified professional mediator, licensed clinical professional counselor, and certified rehabilitation counselor.

The Parent Education Curriculum includes:

■ A summary of the CNMI laws regarding custody and what the Family Court expects from parents;

■ Information about how separation/divorce affects children, their reactions and how parents can help their children cope with these emotional issues;

■ The grieving process during separation/divorce for both parents and children;

■ Understanding for parents of how children adjust to the separation/divorce based on how their parents cope with the challenges of divorce;

■ The impact of separation/divorce based on the ages and stages of their children;

■ Coping skills and understanding the need for a business like relationship with their ex-partner as they will always be mother and father to their children and it is their responsibility to help their children find acceptance and healthy adjustment to the change in the family;

■ Understanding for parents of how their children experience the separation/divorce will affect their well being for the rest of their lives; and

■ Understanding for parents that children are not divorceable.

Any interested organization or educational institution can pick up a copy of the DVD at the CNMI Superior Court-Family Court Division.

In addition, monthly classes are being held at the CNMI Superior Court. Anyone interested in attending the class should contact the Family Court Division at 236-9781/2/3 for further details.

This project was supported by a grant awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency by the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of the Justice Programs, U. S. Department of Justice and the CNMI Government, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council. ***(PR)***

Hotel occupancy at 57 percent in December 2009

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 57 percent occupancy rate among its 13-member hotels for December 2009, a 5-percent decrease from December 2008.

A total of 48,386 of the 84,176 available room nights were sold in December, compared to 52,984 of 85,126 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates dipped slightly from $109.74 last year to $106.93 in December 2009.

For calendar year 2009, occupancy averaged 58 percent and room rates averaged $96.56. This compares to 62 percent occupancy and $97.74 room rate the previous calendar year. The industry occupancy rate target is 80 percent, a percentage not achieved for HANMI since 1997.

"Essentially, our occupancy and room rates are back to being as low as they were 10 years ago, right after the Asian economic crisis," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "We are looking for ways to turn this around."

"With additional investment in tourism, the Northern Marianas can expect an improvement in revenues and the economy, as a whole. For this reason, we strongly support additional funding for strategic promotions in our target markets," he added.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(HANMI)***

'NMI *faces recovery challenges, positive opportunities in* 2010'

The anticipated challenges facing Northern Marianas tourism this year are balanced with moderate amount of opportunities, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority in its report on the primary markets of Japan and Korea to its general membership last week.

After posting 4 percent more arrivals to the Northern Marianas in Fiscal Year 2009 compared to 2008, Japan outbound travel is anticipated to grow 8 percent in 2010. Coupled with an anticipated 12 percent increase in air seats to the Northern Marianas for the year, as announced by airline industry partners, the MVA has sent an aggressive target of attracting 15 percent more visitors from Japan. That would bring Japan arrivals back to the level of three years ago.

To achieve its targeted increase from Japan, the MVA will still need to battle unstable airlift supply due to flight service changes, price competition with Guam, the continued global recession, and limited marketing funds compared to competing destinations.

However, MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said despite the agency's limited funding, they will attempt to capitalize on the new opportunities being presented.

"Delta Airlines has launched additional daily service from Narita, and we need to stretch our promotion dollars to fill those seats," said Tenorio. "Fortunately, we anticipate continued recovery from H1N1 flu fears and a stronger yen. The Northern Mariana also enjoys strong positioning with the Japan travel industry, and given the current economic situation, travelers may opt for short-haul destinations. This could certainly work in our favor with the right promotions."

The Korean market holds its own challenges for the new year, including negative publicity caused by last year's shooting incident injuring several Korean tourists, stricter immigration security due to federalization, and the possible increase of airseats to Guam.

"Korea will remain a challenging market for us this year in terms of recovery, but it appears the country's economy is recovering and the Won is stabilizing, which is good news," said Tenorio. "Additionally, this year we enjoy the opening of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort hotel by Korean conglomerate Kumho Asiana Group, as well as the acquisition of Saipan World Resort by Hwanha Hotel & Resort, which has extensive experience in the resort industry."

The MVA provided the market updates at its semi-annual general membership meeting at Saipan World Resort. ***(MVA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC Alumni general meeting

There will be a general membership meeting of all NMC alumni (those who have graduated with NMC degrees or those who have earned at least 24 NMC academic credits) at the Pacific Islands Club (PIC) Seaside Grill on Jan. 27, 2010 (Wednesday) between 5pm to 7pm. All NMC alumni are invited to attend. We will be electing new NMC alumni officers. ***(PR)***

Kagman Friday Night Market seeks vendors

The Kagman Friday Night Market is looking for interested vendors to sell food, drinks, produce, fish, clothing, and crafts every government payday Friday. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market, which takes place at the Kagman Community Center every government payday Friday from 4pm to 10pm. Contact 256-7678 or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Garapan Elementary School

Garapan Elementary School would like to announce that the Department of Public Health would be conducting the second round of H1N1 vaccines on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010. Parents and legal guardians who would like their children to receive their vaccine for the first time can pick up a consent form at the Garapan Elementary School nurse's clinic from 7:30am to 4:30pm daily or call 237-3341 and have a permission form sent home with their child. Students who received the first round of vaccinations will be administered the second dose on Jan 27, 2010. GES encourages all parents and legal guardians to avail of this free vaccinations and reminds them that the H1N1 vaccine is safe and effective in the prevention of flu.

Veterans' briefing set

This is to let all veteran, their dependents and all concerned know that on Jan. 26, 2010, at 10am, Michael C. Brown will give a short one-hour-only briefing on Veteran's Aid and Attendance. The briefing will be at the Office of Military/ Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill, building 1364. For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the office of Military/ Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

H1N1 Mass Vaccination Drives will be held on:

January 23rd
- Sabalu Market, Civic Center in Susupe

January 26th
- Tuesday Market, Fishing Basin in Garapan

January 30th
- Cervical Cancer Health Fair, Fishing Basin in Garapan from 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Head Start Health Symposium LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman from 7:30am to 2:30pm

You can also visit any health clinic on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to get vaccinated.

The more people vaccinated, the less likely the flu will spread in the coming months.

The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.

Be safe, get vaccinated!

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

Island Snapshots

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Mike Pan, who is shown here celebrating his 23rd birthday with his father, Juan Pan Guerrero, and relatives.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

LITTLE KINGS AND QUEENS

Little King and Queen of Hearts 2010 winners Arbee Lawrence B. Musngi and Mandy Joan Tenorio, both standing center, pose with some of the participants in the competition, at the Glimpses of Saipan office in Gualo Rai Wednesday afternoon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This happy birthday shoutout goes out to Bonnie S. Cruz, seated center, who is celebrating her birthday today, Jan. 22, 2010. She is joined in this picture by, from left, seated, Eric Cruz and Jack Cepeda, and standing from left, Hercia Alepuyo and Eleanor Cepeda. Many, many blessings Bon. We love you very much. From the Ericco family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to our Uncle Gus T. Aldan, left, who will be celebrating his birthday on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010. He is shown here with Melvin P. Cepeda. Happy birthday Uncle Nunung and have a blast. Wishing you the best birthday ever. Many blessings coming from your nephews, nieces and the rest of the *familia*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to David John "DJ" Aldan Cepeda, center, shown here with cousins Joey P. Lizama, left, and Johannes Maratita. DJ will be celebrating his 18th birthday on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010. It's a stepping stone, son, and the family wishes you the best birthday ever and may the Lord guide and keep you safe always. Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Luis Patrick "Lu" Reyes. Enjoy your special day! Love you always, the lil' rascals Kirida, Keoni, Tricia, Boom, Jay-Boy, Louie Boy, Lrock and Luther!

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, #1242 Pohnpei Ct.
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670)664-4809 Fax No: (670)664-4814
Email: cnmihcplb@gmail.com

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 3pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room #3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (12/11/09)
V. Chairperson's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Investigator's Report
VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
IX. Old Business:
A. Emergency Regulations
B. Physician Assistants
C. Draft Regulations
X. New Business:
XI. Applications for Board's Review
A. New/Renewal Applications
B. Pending Applications
XII. Miscellaneous Business:
A. FSMB Annual Dues
XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
A. DEA Letter
B. Dr. Ramsey
C. Dr. Macris
XIV. Announcements
XV. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Janet McCullough
Chairperson

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 500470 Saipan. MP 96950-0470
Tel: (670) 664.VOTE / Fax: (670) 664-8689
http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at the Election Commission's conference room in Susupe, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the office of the Election Commission Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
a. Roll call
b. Adoption of Agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. New Business
a. Election of Officers
b. Initial Review of Election Statute

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

3rd NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 I 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 I 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991

The Trustor has defaulted on payment on the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC SS 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, February 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Eighty-Eight Thousand Thirty and 00/100 ($88,030.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 15th day of January, 2010.

BY: /S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director NMHC

Veterans Affairs Benefit Seminar

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 - 10:00 AM

"Applying for Veterans Aid and Attendance Pension Benefit"

If you are a veteran and need help with daily activities such as cooking, cleaning, dressing, driving, mobility, or other assistance, this benefit can provide the funds you need to pay for help.

This free seminar is presented by Michael Brown of Pacific Home Health Care, LLC.

Veterans and their spouses or surviving spouses can receive up to $22,000 per year to pay for at home health care.

Seating is limited. Contact Ruth Coleman of the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office at 664-2650 or Michael Brown of Pacific Home Health Care, LLC at 234-2273, to register.

Seminar to be held at the

Office of Military Liaison and Veterans Affairs

Capital Hill, Saipan

Pacific Home Health Care, LLC is a private commercial vendor of the VA Pacific Islands Health System

DOLLAR DAYS TAILORING CORNER

TAILORING • ALTERATION

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- GRADUATION GOWNS
- FORMAL GOWNS
- SUIT & BARONG

PACKAGES
- WEDDING ENTOURAGE PACKAGE
- GRADUATION BALL
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MONDAY TO FRIDAY - 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY - 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

DOLLAR DAYS GARAPAN (Across Rainbow Photo)

P.O. BOX 501328, SAIPAN MP 96950 • TEL. NO.:(670) 233-6688 • E-MAIL: micprt@gmail.com

Business

World Bank: growth may wilt as stimulus fades

SHANGHAI (AP)—The global economy will suffer the fallout from the financial crisis for years to come, the World Bank said Thursday in a report warning that growth may wilt later this year as stimulus spending fades.

The Washington-based bank forecasts the world economy will grow 2.7 percent this year, and 3.2 percent in 2011. It contracted 2.2 percent in 2009.

"A great deal of uncertainty clouds the outlook for the second half of 2010 and beyond," the report said.

Though the "acute phase" of the crisis has passed, chronic weaknesses remain. Much depends on the timing of withdrawal from massive stimulus programs and adjustments to monetary policy, the bank said.

Mishandling could result in a "double-dip," with a return to recession in 2011, it warned.

In the U.S., growth is projected at 2.5 percent in 2010 and 2.7 percent in 2011. European economies will see a slower recovery, with growth forecast at only 1 percent in 2010.

China's economy, whose recovery has led the global rebound, will expand by 9 percent this year and the next, the report said. On Thursday, China reported that its economy surged 10.7 percent in the fourth quarter of last year, with annual growth for 2009 at 8.7 percent.

Developing countries will as usual see higher growth rates, at a combined 5.2 percent this year, but will be plagued by shortages of financing and investment that will handicap their progress. Rich countries will grow more slowly, by 1.8 percent in 2010, as fragile financial markets and anemic private demand crimp job creation and investment, the report says.

"Unfortunately, we cannot expect an overnight recovery from this deep and painful crisis, because it will take many years for economies and jobs to be rebuilt. The toll on the poor will be very real," Justin Lin, World Bank chief economist, said in a statement.

While they will do better than industrial nations, developing economies will have growth rates that fall short of their potential due to the deterioration in conditions for financing and growth, the report said. Unemployment will remain a serious problem.

Then and now

A comparison of last year's economic data with 2007 — before the financial meltdown:

	2007	2009
Federal budget deficit	$342 million	$1.4 trillion
Bank failures	3	140
U.S. home foreclosures	1,285,873	2,824,674
Unemployment rate	5.0%	10.0%
S&P 500 stock index	1,468.36	1,115.10

Corporate passing

The crisis took down several major players in the financial-services industry; these firms either failed or had to be merged into other companies:

- Bear Stearns
- Countrywide Financial
- Lehman Bros.
- Merrill Lynch
- Wachovia Bank
- Washington Mutual

Source: Congressional Budget Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., RealtyTrac, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bloomberg News
Graphic: The Philadelphia Inquirer

© 2010 MCT

Carlsmith Ball partner gets recognition

HONOLULU, HI—*Best Lawyers*, one of the oldest and most respected peer-reviewing publications in the legal profession, has named Carlsmith Ball Honolulu partner Mary Jane Connell as "Honolulu *Best Lawyers* Trusts and Estates Lawyer of the Year" for 2010.

"This is a well-deserved recognition for Mary Jane," said Carlsmith Ball Chair Karl Kobayashi. "To be acknowledged by her peers is a testament to the quality of Mary Jane's accomplishments in the trust and estate planning practice areas. We are fortunate to have her as a member of our team."

With more than a quarter of a century in publication, *Best Lawyers* designates "Lawyers of the Year" in high-profile legal specialties in large legal communities. Only a single lawyer in each specialty within each community is being honored as the "Lawyer of the Year."

Best Lawyers compiles its lists of outstanding attorneys by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The current 16th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America (2010)* is based on more than 2.8 million detailed evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers. The lawyers being honored as "Lawyers of the Year" have received particularly high ratings by earning a high level of respect among their peers for their abilities, professionalism and integrity.

Steven Naifeh, Managing Editor of *Best Lawyers*, said, "We continue to believe—as we have believed for more than 25 years—that recognition by one's peers is the most meaningful form of praise in the legal profession. We would like to congratulate Mary Jane Connell on being selected as the 'Honolulu *Best Lawyers* Trusts and Estates Lawyer of the Year' for 2010." ***(PR)***

China's growth accelerates to 10.7 percent in 4Q

BEIJING (AP)—China declared Thursday it has recovered from the global crisis after fourth quarter growth jumped to 10.7 percent. But inflation picked up, adding to pressure on Beijing to prevent overheating and keep its economic recovery on track.

Analysts said it is time for Beijing to start winding down its stimulus and focus on controlling inflation. Quarterly growth exceeded most forecasts and raised 2009's expansion to 8.7 percent, up from a low of 6.1 percent in the first quarter.

"China has become the first, on the whole, to achieve recovery and stabilization in its economy," said Ma Jiantang, commissioner of the National Bureau of Statistics, at a news conference. But he said China still faces "uncertainties" and a weak global outlook so the government will avoid major changes in economic policy.

Chinese leaders say stimulus spending will continue but worry about rising prices and have ordered banks to curb lending after a record surge in 2009. Economists expect an interest rate hike to cool demand for credit, tamp down inflation and prevent bubbles in real estate and stock prices, which are up sharply.

Reflecting the new pressures on the government, Ma said consumer prices picked up in the fourth quarter after falling for much of the year. Prices rose 0.6 percent in November from a year earlier and the rate rose to 1.9 percent in December.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

New York Times to ask Web readers to pay up in '11

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Times plans to charge readers for full access to its Web site next year, reviving an idea that fizzled twice for the newspaper. This time it's betting that it will be able to wring more revenue from readers without crimping its Internet ad sales. Under the plan outlined Wednesday, the Times will adopt a "metered" system that will allow readers to click on a certain number of stories for free each month before fees kick in. A metered system is designed to draw casual readers with free articles while getting fees from people who want to dig deeper on the site. The fees won't be imposed until next year, giving Times executives more time to build the system and figure out the details that are likely to dictate whether the gamble pays off. The pivotal issues include determining how much to charge and how many stories will be free each month.

Wells Fargo sees signs of life in consumer lending

NEW YORK (AP)—Wells Fargo says the economy is getting better—it sees signs of recovery in its loan business. But the big bank may be more of an exception than a leading indicator. Breaking from the cautious, even downbeat forecasts of rivals like JPMorgan Chase & Co., Wells Fargo on Wednesday used words like "favorable" and "confidence" about its future amid tentative signs that its loan defaults are close to a peak or already have peaked. The company believes the recession-weary consumer could be making a comeback.

Oil near $78 in Asia on China's strong growth

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Oil prices rose to near $78 a barrel Thursday in Asia after China, a top oil consumer, declared it has recovered from the global crisis, allaying concerns over its recent crackdown on bank lending. Benchmark crude for March delivery added 16 cents to $77.90 a barrel at midday Kuala Lumpur time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell $1.58 to settle at $77.74 on Wednesday. The February contract expired Wednesday, ending down $1.40 at $77.62.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

FINAL NOTICE OF DENIALS OF APPLICATIONS
2009 APPLICATIONS TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS
January 22, 2010, first notice
January 29, 2010, second notice

PARTIES TO APPLICATIONS TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS FILED IN 2009 (INCLUDING BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS):

Each of the applications to employ foreign workers filed at any time during calendar year 2009 has either been granted or denied by the Labor Processing Section of the Department of Labor. If your application has not been granted, it has been denied. In each case, this is a final action by the Department of Labor. All claims, including all appeals and all claims for eligibility for transfer, if not previously granted, have been denied. Any party who has not been served personally or by mail with the denial is now, as of the publication of this notice, served with the denial. An employer or worker served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the denial from the Labor Processing Section. An employer or worker affected by a denial has until February 16, 2010 to appeal the denial. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or otherwise on a party, and the time within which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

Nation

Obama, Dems consider pared-back health care bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama and congressional allies signaled Wednesday they may try to scale back his sweeping health care overhaul to keep parts of it alive in the wake of a stinging rebuke in the Senate race in Massachusetts.

A simpler, less ambitious bill emerged as an alternative only hours after the loss of the party's crucial 60th Senate seat forced the Democrats to slow their all-out drive to pass Obama's signature legislation despite fierce Republican opposition. The White House is still hoping the House can pass the Senate bill in a quick strike, but Democrats are now considering other options.

Obama

No decisions have been made, lawmakers said, but they laid out a new approach that could still include these provisions: limiting the ability of insurance companies to deny coverage to people with medical problems, allowing young adults to stay on their parents' policies, helping small businesses and low-income people pay premiums and changing Medicare to encourage payment for quality care instead of sheer volume of services.

Obama said the election results wouldn't sour his interest in passing a health care bill.

Intel chief concedes errors in Christmas bomb case

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's intelligence chief on Wednesday conceded missteps in the government's handling of the Christmas Day airline bombing attempt, but his comments about the failure to use a special federal interrogation team may have amounted to a misstep of his own.

National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair raised new questions Wednesday before a Senate panel about how well prepared the administration is to respond on short notice to domestic terrorist acts.

Blair suggested the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group, also known as HIG, should have questioned the Nigerian airline bomb incident suspect before any decisions were made on whether to place him in the civilian court system.

"That unit was created exactly for this purpose," Blair told the Senate Homeland Security Committee. "We did not invoke the HIG in this case. We should have."

But the elite interrogation unit cited by Blair was designed by the Obama administration last year to deal with suspects captured abroad. And it is not operational yet, FBI Director Robert Mueller said Wednesday.

More evacuations ordered as new storm hits Calif.

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. (AP)—A third powerful Pacific storm pounded California with heavy rain and snow Wednesday, forcing evacuations of hundreds of homes below wildfire-scarred mountains, shutting a major interstate and unleashing lightning strikes on two airliners.

Fierce winds howled along the coast and in the mountains, and forecasters warned of rainfall rates as high as 1 1/2 inches an hour on soil already saturated from two days of wild weather that caused urban street flooding in coastal cities, spawned a damaging tornado and toppled trees, killing two people.

Despite stern pleas from authorities and door-to-door calls by police officers and sheriff's deputies, some residents refused to comply with evacuation orders issued for Los Angeles-area foothill communities below the steep San Gabriel Mountains where 250 square miles of forest burned in a summer wildfire.

Rick and Starr Frazier put their faith in concrete barriers and a 2-foot-high wall of sandbags on the perimeter of their home in La Canada Flintridge.

"Look at our house, we're pretty well fortified here," Starr Frazier said. "If any rain or mud or anything comes down, it'll be blocked by our barricades and we're very well stocked with food and water."

ACROSS THE NATION

Professor says gays are politically unpopular

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Gay men and lesbians are a politically unpopular and relatively powerless force in the United States, even though the public tends to think otherwise, a political scientist testified Wednesday during a historic trial on the constitutionality of California's same-sex marriage ban. Stanford University professor Gary M. Segura cited hate crime statistics, anti-gay remarks by elected officials, the relatively low number of gay office holders nationwide, and the success rate of ballot initiatives such as California's Proposition 8 to argue that gays do not possess a meaningful degree of political power. "By any measure, gays and lesbians would have to be understood as a minority faction," Segura said. "People who accept the normativity of heterosexuality have held power essentially forever."

Va. rampage victims include suspect's relatives

APPOMATTOX, Va. (AP)—The victims of a gunman's violent rampage in central Virginia included the suspect's sister and brother-in-law, as well as two other adults, three teenagers and a 4-year-old boy, according to authorities who charged the alleged shooter with first-degree murder on Wednesday. Christopher Bryan Speight, a 39-year-old security guard, surrendered to police at daybreak after leading investigators on an 18-hour manhunt following the slayings at a house in rural central Virginia where deputies found a mortally wounded man and seven bodies. A bomb squad discovered a multitude of explosives at Speight's home, and crews were detonating the devices into the night.

Former Texas minister convicted of killing wife

WACO, Texas (AP)—A former Texas minister was convicted late Wednesday of slipping his wife sleeping pills, smothering her to death with a pillow and faking her suicide note so he could be with his mistress. Jurors deliberated more than seven hours before convicting Matt Baker, 38, of murder in his wife's 2006 death, which initially was ruled a suicide. Baker did not testify during the seven-day trial and showed no emotion when the verdict was read, but relatives of his wife, Kari, began to cry. After the judge revoked Baker's bond, he shook his attorney's hand and said "thank you" as a sheriff's deputy took him into custody.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone no. (670)236-0903 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0990

NOTICE OF CLOSURE APPEALS CASES

Friday, January 15, 2010, First Notice
Friday, January 22, 2010, Second Notice

Each of the appeals listed below has been adjudicated and closed by the Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final agency action. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any appellant or appellee listed below who has not been served personally with the Secretary's order adjudicating or dismissing case is now, as of the date of second publication of this notice, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the Secretary's order from the Executive Secretary. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the date of second notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person.

Any appellant or appellee who has a claim covered by or a part of any of these cases that has not been adjudicated or included in a final order of the Secretary should report to the Executive Secretary at the Department of Labor, second floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio on or before **February 8, 2010** with the necessary documentation with respect to the claim.

Case No.	Appellant	Appellee
CAC 09-006-01	Gu, Xia (LIDS No. 284968)	
PAT/NOB - 1151	Hu, Gui Hua (LIDS No. 287734)	
PAT/NOB - 1055	Kim's General Corporation	
PAT/NOB - 1975	Liang, Jie (LIDS No. 285093)	
	Payoc, Lorelie B. (LIDS No. 185789)	
PAT/NOB - 08-3438	Zang, Gui Zhi (LIDS No. 281526)	
PAT/NOB - 08-3448	Zhang, Jun (LIDS No. 286354)	

M.I.M.C
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Military Integration Management Committee

PUBLIC FORUM

Guam Military Build-Up
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
The partnership of the MIMC, OEA, and Guam ACT
will hold a public hearing:

Wednesday, JANUARY 27, 2010
@ 9:00AM on

Saipan:
Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe

And LIVE via VTC courtesy of
the NMC and IT&E

On Tinian:
Northern Marianas College

On Rota:
Northern Marianas College

This forum is geared towards providing the CNMI public with highlights and an interpretation of the EIS in non-military language. This presentation will address the chapters in the 11,000 page document which pertain to the CNMI.

Because of time constraints, the ACT is encouraging the public to submit questions in advance to Mr. Tom Linden at (670)989-3000 or by email to cnmi.mimc@commerce.gov.mp, no later than January 24th.

Questions submitted in advance will be answered by the ACT at the forum .

This forum was made possible by the Office of Economic Adjustment, Guam ACT, IT&E, & the Northern Marianas College.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Koreas end talks without progress

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea and South Korea made no significant progress in talks concluding Thursday on their joint industrial park, which has been one of the most prominent symbols of cooperation amid tensions between the neighbors. The two sides held meetings starting Tuesday in the North's border city of Kaesong to assess their joint tours in December of industrial parks in China and Vietnam, and to discuss ways to further develop their own complex at Kaesong.

China teen seen as hero for killing local official

BEIJING (AP)—When Li Shiming was stabbed through the heart by a hired assassin, few of his fellow villagers mourned the local Communist Party official many say made their lives hell by seizing land, extorting money and bullying people for years. Instead, villagers in the northern town of Xiashuixi have made Li's teenage killer something of a local hero. More than 20,000 people from the coal-mining area petitioned a court for a lenient sentence. "I didn't feel surprised at all when I heard Li Shiming was killed, because people wanted to kill him a long time ago," said villager Xin Xiaomei, who says her husband was harassed for years by Li after the two men had a personal dispute. "I wanted to kill Li myself, but I was too weak."

Gates: Terror groups aim to destabilize South Asia

NEW DELHI (AP)—A syndicate of terror groups affiliated with al-Qaida might try to start a new war between rivals India and Pakistan as part of an organized effort to sow upheaval across South Asia, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday. "I believe this operation, under the umbrella of al-Qaida working with all of these different groups, is intended to destabilize not just Afghanistan, or not just Pakistan, but potentially the whole region," Gates said. Gates described the relations between Taliban groups and Lashkar-e-Taiba extremists accused of orchestrating the 2008 terror attack on the Indian city of Mumbai, and he suggested the Pakistan-based militants might try a new terror assault on India to provoke a reprisal.

Graphic videos shown in Philippine massacre trial

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—State prosecutors on Wednesday showed graphic video images of mangled bodies of dozens of victims of a pre-election massacre in the southern Philippines as they pressed their opposition to bail for the main suspect.

Two 90-minute videotapes were shown at the resumption of the murder trial of Andal Ampatuan Jr., who is accused of leading the Nov. 23 slaughter of 57 people, including journalists and relatives and supporters of his political rival.

A sister of one of the victims wept openly on seeing the images and was led out of the courtroom while a private prosecutor rushed out of the courtroom upon seeing the images and suddenly falling ill.

AP

Police operatives dig up hundreds of rounds of ammunition during a raid at the warehouse of Andal Ampatuan's father-in-law at Sharif Aguak township, Maguindanao province in the southern Philippines Wednesday Jan. 20, 2010.

State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera told the court the "graphic, gruesome and lurid images" of the victims were meant to corroborate last week's testimony of Rasul Sangki, vice mayor of Ampatuan township in southern Maguindanao province, where the killings took place.

Sangki had testified he saw Ampatuan and dozens of gunmen shoot the victims at close range after they were stopped on their way to file candidacy documents for Esmael Mangudadatu, a political rival of Ampatuan's who was launching a bid for provincial governor.

Muslim prayer room set afire amid Malaysia tension

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Vandals tried to torch a Muslim prayer room in Malaysia on Thursday, police said, one of the few attacks on an Islamic place of worship after nearly a dozen churches were firebombed amid a dispute over the use of the word "Allah" by Christians.

Religious tensions have risen after a court ruled Dec. 31 that non-Muslims can use "Allah" as a translation for God in the Malay language. Many among the country's ethnic Malay Muslim majority believe the word should be exclusive to Muslims, and that its use by others could confuse some Muslims and even entice them to convert.

Since Jan. 8, there have been assaults on 11 churches, a Sikh temple and a mosque—mostly by unknown assailants using firebombs. Police this week arrested eight suspects believed to have orchestrated the most serious attack, which partially gutted a church in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's largest city.

On Thursday, vandals apparently set fire to a curtain in a small building designated for Muslim prayers in southern Johor state, said a state police official who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing protocol.

People who noticed the blaze doused it before it could cause extensive damage. Police found traces of diesel and a broken window pane in the building, the official said.

Police are investigating whether the incident was linked to other attacks, the official said.

Government authorities have condemned the attacks amid efforts to preserve decades of amicable relations between Malays, who make up nearly two-thirds of Malaysia's 28 million people, and religious minorities, mainly ethnic Chinese and Indians who practice Buddhism, Christianity or Hinduism.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW 10-RFP-004

DESIGN OF MPLT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND TRUST OFFICE, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Design of MPLT Administration Building and Trust Office** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2004. Article 7, "Local Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30.3-305 of the Procurement Regulations.

The scope of the Work will be available on or after **January 22, 2010** at the DPW, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill Office. A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Guaulo Rai Office at **10:00 A.M. on Feb. 10 2010**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr.**, Director, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **Feb. 16, 2010.**

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. **Qualifications and Experiences (50%).** Professional background and caliber of key staff and personnel and demonstrated technical capability. Current and recently completed projects that substantiate the firm's aptitude for projects of similar size, scope, and requirements. The team must have post-secondary educational design experience either thru an employee, join venture or consultant.

2. **Organization and Capacity (35%).** Capacity of firm and proposed lead designers to fulfill Project requirements within the current workload, including the Project schedule.

3. **Response to RFP (15%).** Quality and completeness of response to the requirements of this RFP.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-004"** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, Feb. 19, 2010. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, Feb. 19, 2010 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670)664-1515, or vial e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country prior to, but not later than, Feb. 19, 2010 and must be received no later than March 02, 2010 (CNMI Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architectural and Engineering firms at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNMI Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this **RFP**. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ JOSEPH M. INOS JR.
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement

/s/ PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG
MPLT, CHAIRMAN

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-051

PSS TERMITE TREATMENT – VARIOUS SCHOOLS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the PSS Termite Treatment – Various Schools project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Monday, February 8, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, starting at Marianas High School, Susupe. All questions regarding this project must be submitted by email or in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on February 15, 2010 to Mr. Chris Fryling, Project Manager, Capital Improvements Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at chris@n15architects.com, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-051"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, February 22, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time February 22, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 22, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. March 1, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, March 1, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on February 22, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is **ninety (90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars **($250.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by ninety (90) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

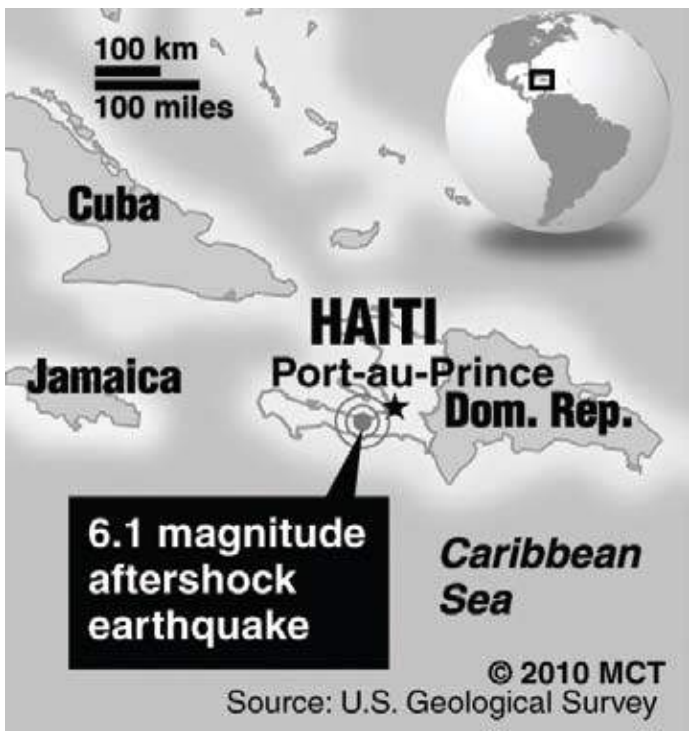
World

Aftershock terrifies desperate Haitians anew

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A frightening new aftershock Wednesday forced more earthquake survivors to live on the capital's streets or sent them fleeing to perhaps even worse conditions in the countryside.

A flotilla of rescue vessels, meanwhile, led by the U.S. hospital ship Comfort, converged on the capital. They are helping fill gaps in still lagging global efforts to bring water, food and medical help to hundreds of thousands of people who are surviving in makeshift tents or simply on blankets or plastic sheets under the tropical sun.

The strongest tremor since Haiti's cataclysmic Jan. 12 earthquake struck at 6:03 a.m., just before sunrise while many were still sleeping. From the teeming plaza near the collapsed presidential palace to a hillside tent city, the 5.9-magnitude aftershock lasted only seconds but panicked thousands of Haitians.



"Jesus!" they cried as rubble tumbled and dust rose anew from government buildings around the plaza. Parents gathered up children and ran.

Up in the hills, where U.S. troops were helping thousands of homeless, people bolted screaming from their tents. Jajoute Ricardo, 24, came running from his house, fearing its collapse.

"Nobody will go to their house now," he said, as he sought a tent of his own. "It is chaos, for real."

A slow vibration intensified into side-to-side shaking that lasted about eight seconds—compared to last week's far stronger initial quake that seemed to go on for 30 seconds.

7 bodies found in abandoned cars in south Mexico

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—Mexican authorities found seven corpses in two abandoned cars along with written messages referring to drug cartels, state police said Wednesday.

The bullet-riddled bodies of three men were inside a car left beside the highway between the resort communities of Acapulco and Zihuatanejo on Wednesday morning, police in the Pacific coast state of Guerrero said.

Police did not release the message left with the bodies, but said it referred to drug cartels.

Late Tuesday night, state police found the bodies of four young men in an abandoned car near a hotel in Guerrero's capital, Chilpancingo. A police report said the men appeared to have been asphyxiated by plastic tape covering their faces.

A written message left on the windshield accused them of betraying the brothers who lead the Beltran Leyva cartel, police said Wednesday.

Last month, Mexican authorities killed kingpin Arturo Beltran Leyva and captured his brother, Carlos Beltran Leyva. Another brother, Hector Beltran Leyva, is believed to be the cartel's boss now.

In the neighboring west coast state of Michoacan, two gunmen and a police officer died in a clash early Wednesday, state prosecutors said.

Gunmen opened fire when police in Uruapan tried to stop their SUV just after 1 a.m. A grenade thrown by the attackers killed one policeman and wounded another. Hours later investigators found the bodies of two men believed to have been involved in the shootout.

WORLD BRIEFS

Group: More than 200 dead in Nigeria violence

JOS, Nigeria (AP)—Charred bodies with scorched hands reaching skyward lay in the streets and a mosque with blackened minarets smoldered Wednesday after several days of fighting between Christians and Muslims killed more than 200 people. Sectarian violence in this central region of Nigeria has left thousands dead over the past decade, and the latest outbreak that began Sunday came despite the government's efforts to quell religious extremism in the West African country. Jos was mostly calm Wednesday, though many terrified civilians kept indoors while soldiers patrolled the streets. The city is situated in Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups mingle in a band of fertile and hotly contested land separating the Muslim north from the predominantly Christian south.

Part of Munich airport closed after security alert

BERLIN (AP)—Part of Munich airport was closed Wednesday as officials searched in vain for a man who left a security checkpoint with a bag containing a laptop after it had triggered an alert for possible explosives. The incident appeared to have been a false alarm triggered by a passenger in a hurry to catch his plane, and who was unaware of what had happened. Part of the airport's Terminal 2 was closed following the incident at 3:30 p.m. (1430 GMT, 9:30 a.m. EST) and hundreds of people were evacuated. The area reopened three hours later.

DR, Honduras president-elect reach deal on Zelaya

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—The Dominican government announced a deal Wednesday with Honduras' president-elect to give ousted leader Manuel Zelaya safe passage to this Caribbean nation. The pact would let Zelaya, who has been holed up in the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa nearly four months, fly here as a guest after Porfirio Lobo takes office as Honduras' president Jan. 27, Dominican presidential spokesman Rafael Nunez said. Lobo said he was confident Honduras' political crisis would ease after his inauguration on the final day of Zelaya's term. He thanked Dominican President Leonel Fernandez for his help in drafting the deal, dubbed the "Agreement for National Reconciliation and the Fortification of Democracy in Honduras."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-002

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SVES)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **One (1) Year Campus Security Services for San Vicente Elementary School (SVES).**

The Scope of Work is available beginning January 22, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed request maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-002"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **February 11, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-003

"LAPTOPS FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY (3380) LAPTOPS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS).**

The Scope of Work is available beginning January 22, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed request maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-003"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **February 10, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Calif. man pleads guilty to hauling 14 tons of pot

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—Sentencing is set for April 12 for a Southern California man who was pulled over driving a big rig containing 14 tons of marijuana. Federal court records show 51-year-old Angel Guillen Raya of Ontario, in San Bernardino County, pleaded guilty this week to transporting the marijuana with the intent to distribute it. Raya was driving a big rig on Interstate 15 south of Temecula in August when he was pulled over for making an unsafe lane change. Court records say a drug-sniffing dog alerted deputies to the presence of drugs. Deputies opened the trailer and found pallets of marijuana stacked to the ceiling. Authorities say the pot seizure was the largest in Riverside County history. A U.S. attorney's office spokesman says no one else has been charged in the case, but an investigation into the source of the marijuana is ongoing.

Calif. man shoots his way out of sinking SUV

ROSEVILLE, Calif. (AP)—A driver whose SUV plunged into a Northern California creek after he was startled by his hands-free cell phone device escaped the sinking vehicle by blasting out the window with a handgun. The 28-year-old man, whose name wasn't immediately available, is an armed security guard at Thunder Valley Casino, north of Sacramento. He sustained minor injuries in Sunday's accident. A spokesman for the Roseville Fire Department said the man was traveling northbound on Industrial Avenue in Roseville when the cell phone device activated. The driver was startled and veered off the road through the guardrail. The SUV landed in Pleasant Grove Creek. He used his gun to shoot himself out, then flagged down a passerby.

School staff get insulin instead of swine flu shot

WELLESLEY, Mass. (AP)—Wellesley school officials said several staff members at an elementary school had to be taken to the hospital after being injected with insulin rather than the swine flu vaccine. Superintendent Bella Wong said no students were ever in danger at Friday's vaccine clinic for staff at Schofield Elementary School and all the people who got the wrong shot have recovered. Wong, in a letter to staff and parents Monday, said the insulin belonged to students with diabetes and was provided by their parents. Wong said in the letter that the school nurse who administered the insulin to staff has been placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation. She did not give the nurse's name.

Woman with .708 blood-alcohol level pleads guilty

STURGIS, S.D. (AP)—A South Dakota woman who prosecutors say had a blood-alcohol level almost nine times the legal driving limit has pleaded guilty to two drunken driving charges. Authorities said 45-year-old Marguerite Engle was arrested Dec. 1 when she was found passed out behind the wheel of a stolen delivery van along Interstate 90, with a blood alcohol level at 0.708. The legal limit in South Dakota is 0.08. Officials have said Engle's blood alcohol level likely is a record for the state. She was arrested again in late December, with a blood alcohol level more than 3 1/2 times the legal limit. Engle faces up to two years in jail when she is sentenced on Feb. 23. In exchange for her guilty pleas, prosecutors have agreed not to pursue other charges, including receiving stolen property and drug possession.

Woman accused of biting off part of sister's nose

NAPOLEON TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A Jonesville woman was charged with biting off part of her sister's nose. Bobbie Smith was held in the Jackson County Jail on a $5,000 bond after her arraignment Tuesday on charges including mayhem and domestic violence. Napoleon Township Police Chief Michael Curry said the 27-year-old woman bit off "a significant portion" of Sandra Smith's nose during a fight Sunday. Police recovered the detached piece. Assistant Prosecutor Mark Blumer told the Jackson Citizen Patriot that photographs indicated one-third of Sandra Smith's nose was bitten off. The 28-year-old woman was to meet with a plastic surgeon at University of Michigan Hospital. Mayhem, defined in part under a 1931 Michigan law as mutilating another person's nose, is a 10-year felony. Jail records didn't indicate if Bobbie Smith had a lawyer.

Man accused of spraying protesters with fox urine

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A 36-year-old Maine man facing assault charges after allegedly spraying fox urine on protesters and a police officer outside a Portland restaurant. Police said the man was arrested Sunday night after spraying a group outside The Front Room restaurant protesting what they call labor violations. Restaurant owner Harding Lee Smith was the target of a lawsuit claiming he's been violating state and federal wage and hour rules. Police said the suspect lives in an apartment above the restaurant, but does not work there. Smith told The Portland Daily Sun that Murphy might have been reacting to the protests that have been taking place outside his restaurant. Fox urine is commonly used as a repellant to keep animals out of people's gardens.

Alleged burglar showers, cuts hair, fries chicken

EASTON, Pa. (AP)—An eastern Pennsylvania man was charged after he allegedly broke into a home, cut his hair and prepared fried chicken before being discovered. The man was charged with breaking into the home in Easton, about 50 miles north of Philadelphia. According to court documents, the homeowner returned home Sunday to discover him watching TV and cooking chicken. Authorities said the man threw a rock through a front door window to get inside and appeared to have rummaged through every room in the house. He also took a shower. The man faces burglary, criminal trespass and other charges and was being held on $15,000 bail.

Pa. police puzzled after thief steals bales of hay

WELLSVILLE, Pa. (AP)—It's a crime with high bale. Police in central Pennsylvania are trying to find out who took more than 200 bales of hay from a farm early this month. State Police said someone broke into a barn in Wellsville, York County on Jan. 3 and took about 245 bales of hay. The barn's owner does not live on the property. Trooper Matthew Pavone said the hay is worth about $1,000.

Police: Angry man kidnaps snowball-tossing teen

ANSONIA, Conn. (AP)—Police said a prank turned potentially dangerous when a man angry about a snowball hitting his car allegedly pulled a knife on a group of youths and kidnapped one of them. No one was injured. Joshua Good, 25, was to be arraigned Monday in Superior Court on charges including first-degree kidnapping, threatening and reckless endangerment. The kidnapping charge carries 10 to 25 years in prison. Police said a group of youths was throwing snowballs near Colony Park Friday night when Good's car was hit. Police say Good threatened the youths with a knife and forced a 13-year-old boy into his car. Authorities say Good drove the boy home and didn't hurt him. Good posted $150,000 bail. He didn't immediately return a phone message Wednesday.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
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San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.
Plaintiff,
v.
JOAN M. SABLAN,
Defendant.

CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0154

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May 4, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 01, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants, **Joan M. Sablan** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

Lot 003 I 14 (formerly lot 3 block 5), as more particularly described on Drawing/ Cadastral Plat No. 003 I 00 the original of which was recorded on March 01, 1971, as Document No. 714 at Land Registry of Saipan, said property is located in San Antonio, Saipan containing improvements used as the personal residence of Mortgagor.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on January 29, 2010 at the hour 10:00 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.
Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property, prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.
Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly, disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.
Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiveghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property, listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale maybe subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval maybe granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.
Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 19th day of January, 2010:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR

By: **DANILO T. AGUILAR**
Auctioneer

BARRIGADA, GUAM) ss

ON THIS 19th day of January, 2010, before me, a Notary Public, in and for the Island of Guam, personally appeared **DANILO T. AGUILAR**, of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, known to me to be the attorney for **WELLSFARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.,** whose name is subscribed to the foregoing **NOTICE OF SALE**, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed on behalf of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

NOTARY PUBLIC

ROLAN D. BAUTISTA
NOTARY PUBLIC
In and for Guam, U.S.A.
My Commission Expires: Dec. 01, 2012
P.O. Box 20145 Barrigada, Guam 96921

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
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FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.
Plaintiff,
v.
AARON D. TAWNEY AND AGNELIA P. TAWNEY
Defendant.

CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0268

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May 4, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 01, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants, **Aaron D. Tawney and Agnelia P. Tawney** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

That certain indenture of lease made by Antonio S. Guerrero, as lessor, to Playford M. Ramsey and Kristin V. Ramsey, as lessee, by that assignment dated May 31, 1995 and recorded June 1, 1995 as Document No. 95-1331 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan and assigned to Aaron Tawney and Agnelia P. Tawney, lessee, by that assignment dated 26 September 2000 and recorder 13 October, 2000 as Document No. 2154 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, demising and leasing for a term of 55 years beginning May 26, 1995 and ending May 25, 2050 the following described premises.

EA 148-1-20, (part of EA 148-1-R2, which was formerly part of EA 148-1-R1, which was part of original EA 148) Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No, 2097/95, the original of which was recorded May 9, 1995 as Document No. 95-1157 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, said the property is located in I- Akgak Saipan, Northern Marianas Island.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on January 29, 2010 at the hour 10:15 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.
Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property, prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.
Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly, disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.
Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiveghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property, listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale maybe subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval maybe granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 19th day of January, 2010:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR

By: **DANILO T. AGUILAR**
Auctioneer

BARRIGADA, GUAM) ss

ON THIS 19th day of January, 2010, before me, a Notary Public, in and for the Island of Guam, personally appeared **DANILO T. AGUILAR**, of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, known to me to be the attorney for **WELLSFARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.,** whose name is subscribed to the foregoing **NOTICE OF SALE**, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed on behalf of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

NOTARY PUBLIC

ROLAN D. BAUTISTA
NOTARY PUBLIC
In and for Guam, U.S.A.
My Commission Expires: Dec. 01, 2012
P.O. Box 20145 Barrigada, Guam 96921

Science & Technology

Tetris passes 100 million paid mobile downloads

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 25 years after its birth, Tetris is the best-selling mobile game of all time, having surpassed 100 million paid downloads on cell phones around the world.

Adam Sussman, vice president of worldwide publishing at Electronic Arts Inc.'s mobile unit, said the milestone marked "a huge moment not just for EA but for mobile gaming in general. It speaks to the evergreen appeal of Tetris."

EA Mobile and the company it licenses the game from, Blue Planet Software, plan to formally announce the milestone on Thursday in Montreal. The companies disclosed it to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Created by a Soviet programmer in 1984, Tetris rode to popularity on Nintendo Co.'s Game Boy—a mobile gaming device—in 1989. Millions of people have continued to play it since, on gaming consoles and over the Web, or on mobile gadgets such as the iPhone or simple cell phones.

The game's neat interface, simple controls and addictive nature make it especially well-suited for mobile gadgets.

New printer may be cheaper than ink cartridges

By ANNE KRISHNAN
THE NEWS & OBSERVER

Question: I think that the printer heads on my older HP Deskjet 832C printer need cleaning. Online help says to use the printer tools to clean the heads, but I don't have any printer tools on the desktop or under the Start menu. I no longer have the printer install CD (if I ever had one). What can I do to clean the printer heads and get real color instead of a red-brown mess?

Answer: Some inkjets have buttons on the printer to allow you to clean the printer heads, while others rely on the included software, such as HP Toolbox.

Since you don't have the software, and assuming that you're using Windows XP, start by going to the "Start" menu and selecting "Control Panel." Click on the "Printers" icon, and you should see a list of all available printers. Right-click on the HP 832C and choose "Properties."

In these settings, you should see an option for cleaning and aligning the print heads, said Jeremy Behrens, an IT consultant in Audubon, N.J. Clicking the "clean" button, or whatever it's called on this particular printer, will spit out a test page with patterns on it.

You also can try to clean the printer heads manually, which on an HP printer are within the ink cartridges. Find instructions from HP for doing this at tinyurl.com/printerheads.

Whichever approach you choose, if the red-brown mess is gone, your problem is solved. If cleaning the heads doesn't fix the problem, you can try buying new cartridges.

However, buying a new printer, which comes with new cartridges, may be cheaper than replacing the ink cartridges on your old one, Behrens said. You also may want to consider springing for a laser printer, which costs more initially but may end up being cheaper in the long run. This is especially true if you don't print very much.

You see, the ink in inkjet cartridges is a liquid that dries out over time and must be replaced. Newer printers may even require you to replace all of the cartridges, even if only one is empty. Laser toner, on the other hand, is a powder that'll stick around for thousands of prints.

One last note: When Behrens Googled your printer, he found that its power cord is part of a recall. This could be serious, he said, as power cords tend to be recalled due to concerns about fire. Learn more at www.hp.com/united-states/consumer/ac_cord_recall/direct/index.html.

■■■

Q: Is there any way to get the drop down queries back into Google? For some reason mine have disappeared, and the ones listed are the Web sites I have already been to.

A: Google's autocomplete feature, also known as "Google Suggest," is very helpful. For instance, if you type "new y," it'll offer "New York City," "New York Yankees" and "New York University," saving you time and keystrokes.

Fortunately, turning the feature back on is easy. Go to Google.com and click on "Settings" at the top right of the page. Choose "Search settings" and scroll down to "Query Suggestions." Click the button to "Provide query suggestions," and you're set.

Alternatively, if you don't like getting suggestions, you can disable the feature the same way.

And if you're looking for a laugh, visit autocompleteme.com, a repository of bizarre "Google Suggest" results.

(Think you can stump the geeks? Send your high-tech question to stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.)

THE HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2010, The Washington Post

Q: I've got an old cellphone that I need to donate. How do I wipe my address book and call history off of it?

A: Many smartphones include a semi-obvious "reset" or "wipe" command to erase all your data (which is more than you can say for some computers), but the equivalent option on dumber phones may not be as easy to find.

Fortunately, a phone-recycling firm called ReCellular maintains a widely recommended database of these procedures at recellular.com/recycling/data_eraser. Choose the make and model of your phone from that page's drop-down menus, click the "Download Instructions" link, and type in your name, e-mail address and wireless carrier on the next page to have the instructions e-mailed to you.

Weird, yes, but it works. ReCellular provided accurate instructions two weeks ago on clearing the memory of an ancient Nextel phone, helpfully noting that its default "security code" was "000000." The Dexter, Mich.-based company also sent along the correct procedure for wiping a Palm Treo smartphone in a second test. And it hasn't e-mailed anything else since.

■■■

Q: Should I download Microsoft's "Platform Update for Windows Vista"? Windows Update says it will help developers target their products, which sounds like a form of adware.

A: Chalk this one up to the different dialects of marketing and software development. In the latter, "target" simply means writing a program to run on particular operating systems. This update, as a tech-support note and a more detailed article for developers on Microsoft's site explain, adds components to Windows Vista to match code built into Windows 7. As a result, programmers can write applications that offer the same features in Windows 7 and its predecessor.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
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TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. Plaintiff, v. **ANDRESINA BENAVENTE,** Defendant.	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0271 **AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on May 13, 2009 and a Writ of Execution issued on July 15, 2009, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants, **Andresina Benavente** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

E.A. 216-5-1, (formerly part of E.A. 216-5, which was part of E.A. 216), as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 2053/89, the original of which was recorded on 02 February as 1989, as Document No. 89-352, at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, said property is located in As Perdido Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on January 29, 2010 at the hour 9:30 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.
Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property, prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.
Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly, disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.
Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property, listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale maybe subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval maybe granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.
Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 19th day of January, 2010:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR

By: **DANILO T. AGUILAR**
Auctioneer

BARRIGADA, GUAM) ss

ON THIS 19th day of January, 2010, before me, a Notary Public, in and for the Island of Guam, personally appeared **DANILO T. AGUILAR**, of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, known to me to be the attorney for **WELLSFARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.,** whose name is subscribed to the foregoing **NOTICE OF SALE**, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed on behalf of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

NOTARY PUBLIC

ROLAN D. BAUTISTA
NOTARY PUBLIC
In and for Guam, U.S.A.
My Commission Expires: Dec. 01, 2012
P.O. Box 20145 Barrigada, Guam 96921

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. Plaintiff, v. **VINCENT A. MANGLONA AND BENITA A. MANGLONA,** Defendant.	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0197 **AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on July 20, 2009 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants, **Vincent A. Manglona and Benita A. Manglona** in and to the following real properties located at Saipan, Northern Mariana, Islands:

Tract No. 20472-3, (formerly part of original Tract 20472, AH 506) as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 2031/81, the original of which was registered on January 16, 1981, as Document No. 11233 at Land Registry, Saipan, said property is located in San Vicente, Saipan, containing an area of 930 square meters, more or less.

Tract No. 081 E 02, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 081 E 00, the original of which was recorded on September 13, 1998, as Document No. 88-2746A at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, said property is located in Sadog Tasi, Saipan containing an area of 1,672 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on January 29, 2010 at the hour 9:45 a.m. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The sale will be open to the general public.
Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property, prior to sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.
Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly, disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenants, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither he undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages or any other remedy on account thereof.
Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price for any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs and the usages of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar 1st Floor San Jose Court Building, Corner Ghiyeghi St., and Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan MP 96950. The bidder assumes all risks of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property, listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.
Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale is subject to approval by the court. The Auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval maybe granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.
Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 19th day of January, 2010:

LAW OFFICE OF DANILO T. AGUILAR

By: **DANILO T. AGUILAR**
Auctioneer

BARRIGADA, GUAM) ss

ON THIS 19th day of January, 2010, before me, a Notary Public, in and for the Island of Guam, personally appeared **DANILO T. AGUILAR**, of the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, known to me to be the attorney for **WELLSFARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.,** whose name is subscribed to the foregoing **NOTICE OF SALE**, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed on behalf of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

NOTARY PUBLIC

ROLAN D. BAUTISTA
NOTARY PUBLIC
In and for Guam, U.S.A.
My Commission Expires: Dec. 01, 2012
P.O. Box 20145 Barrigada, Guam 96921

Life & Style

Prince William enjoys rap and BBQ on Aussie tour

SYDNEY (AP)—Prince William enjoyed a hip-hop performance, fired a few rounds of ammunition while at a military base and joked Wednesday that he was having such a fabulous time on his tour Down Under that he was ready to relocate to the sun-drenched country.

"I have had the most warm welcome ever—not just with the weather, but with all Sydney people," the prince said during a barbecue feast along the city's glittering harbor, the iconic Opera House behind him. "It has been a terrific couple of days in Sydney and because of that, I've joked that I actually will buy a house in Sydney."

The 27-year-old prince also made some jokes at his own expense following a rap performance at a youth center, telling Prime Minister Kevin Rudd: "I can't do any beatboxing—I'm not so good at that."

AP

Britain's Prince William, second from right, and the Premier of New South Wales State Kristina Keneally, third from right, greet the public at the Botanical Gardens on the second day of his unofficial visit to Australia, in Sydney, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010.

The second-in-line to the British throne also discussed his music tastes with Rudd, saying it was a varied mix of rock, Linkin Park and Kanye West.

"I normally get the piss taken out of me, for my choice of music," the prince told the prime minister.

Prince William last visited Australia as a baby in 1983, accompanied by his parents Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana. He arrived in Sydney on Tuesday for a three-day trip following a visit to New Zealand, where he opened the country's new Supreme Court building in the capital, Wellington.

After talking with teens from the Ted Noffs Foundation, which helps troubled adolescents, the prince visited Holsworthy Barracks, one of Australia's largest military bases on Sydney's outskirts. There, he joined military personnel on the marksmanship training range and fired a few rounds of ammunition. He also met with soldiers who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Just last week, William completed an advanced helicopter training course that takes him one step closer to becoming a fully qualified search-and-rescue pilot with Britain's Royal Air Force.

The prince enjoyed a spin around the harbor on a jet boat and was greeted by hundreds of cheering fans as he arrived at the Royal Botanic Gardens for a lunch of shrimp, lamb and steak.

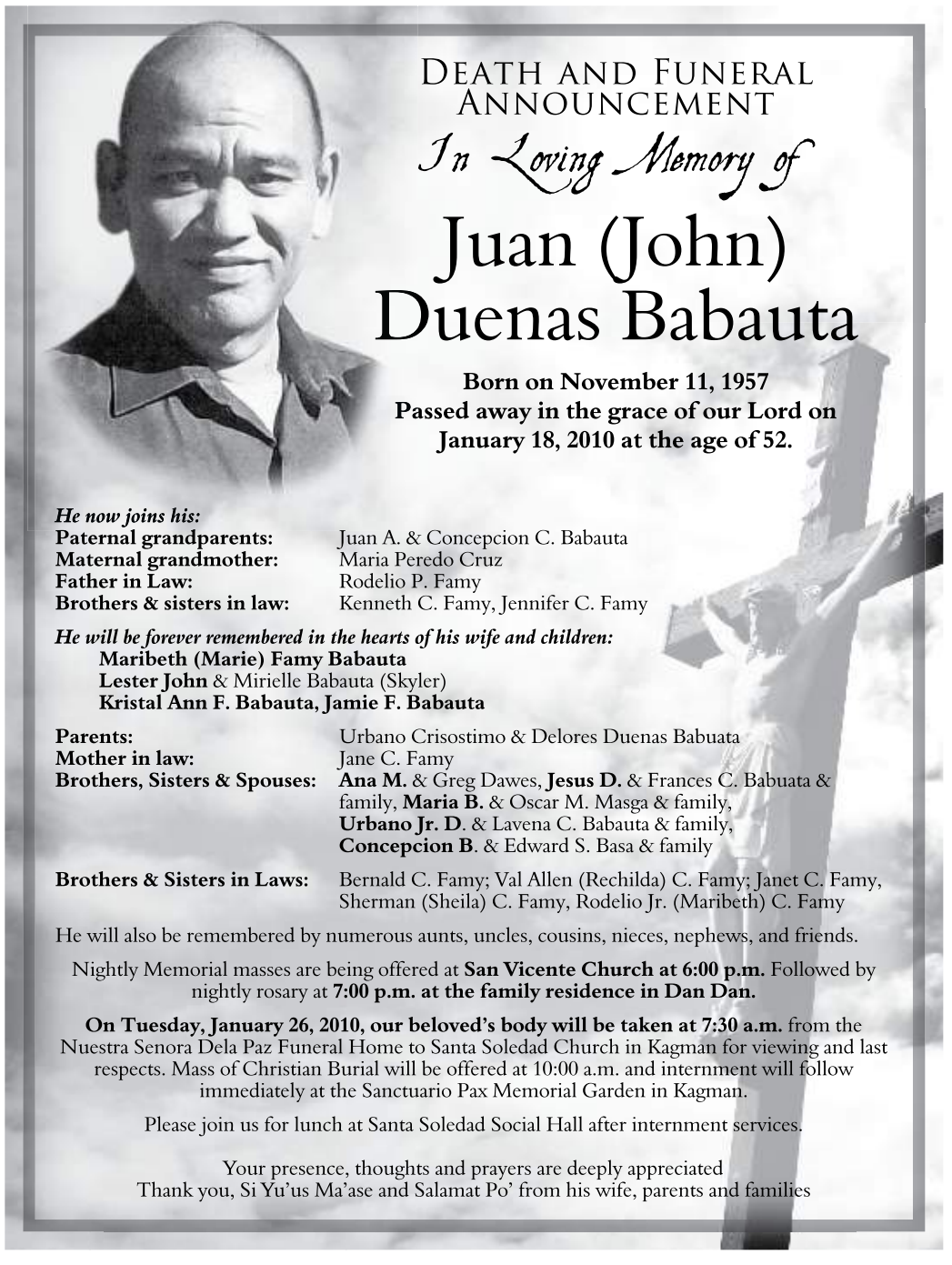
In a jokey mood, William took the opportunity to tease the event's master of ceremonies, Australian television star Daniel MacPherson.

MacPherson told the crowd he felt comfortable ditching his jacket and rolling up his sleeves because the prince was casually dressed. William, in turn, yelled from the crowd that he wouldn't be caught wearing pants as tight as MacPherson's.

"It's not every day that you get heckled by royalty," MacPherson said.

The prince has enjoyed a packed itinerary on his unofficial tour of Australia. On Tuesday, he was greeted with a traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony—a sacred cleansing ritual—before spending time with residents of Sydney's predominantly Aboriginal suburb of Redfern. He also lunched with Australian celebrities, sports stars and politicians, and spent Tuesday night at a popular bar and restaurant on Darling Harbour.

On Thursday, the prince will visit communities destroyed by last year's deadly wildfires in Victoria state. Hundreds of blazes raced across huge parts of southeastern Victoria state in February 2009, killing 173 people and destroying more than 2,000 homes.


DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
In Loving Memory of
Juan (John) Duenas Babauta
Born on November 11, 1957
Passed away in the grace of our Lord on
January 18, 2010 at the age of 52.
He now joins his:
Paternal grandparents: Juan A. & Concepcion C. Babauta
Maternal grandmother: Maria Peredo Cruz
Father in Law: Rodelio P. Famy
Brothers & sisters in law: Kenneth C. Famy, Jennifer C. Famy
He will be forever remembered in the hearts of his wife and children:
Maribeth (Marie) Famy Babauta
Lester John & Mirielle Babauta (Skyler)
Kristal Ann F. Babauta, Jamie F. Babauta
Parents: Urbano Crisostimo & Delores Duenas Babauta
Mother in law: Jane C. Famy
Brothers, Sisters & Spouses: Ana M. & Greg Dawes, Jesus D. & Frances C. Babuata & family, Maria B. & Oscar M. Masga & family, Urbano Jr. D. & Lavena C. Babauta & family, Concepcion B. & Edward S. Basa & family
Brothers & Sisters in Laws: Bernald C. Famy; Val Allen (Rechilda) C. Famy; Janet C. Famy, Sherman (Sheila) C. Famy, Rodelio Jr. (Maribeth) C. Famy
He will also be remembered by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.
Nightly Memorial masses are being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. Followed by nightly rosary at 7:00 p.m. at the family residence in Dan Dan.
On Tuesday, January 26, 2010, our beloved's body will be taken at 7:30 a.m. from the Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Funeral Home to Santa Soledad Church in Kagman for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:00 a.m. and internment will follow immediately at the Sanctuario Pax Memorial Garden in Kagman.
Please join us for lunch at Santa Soledad Social Hall after internment services.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated
Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Salamat Po' from his wife, parents and families

Experts may have found bones of English princess

LONDON (AP)—She was a beautiful English princess who married one of Europe's most powerful monarchs and dazzled subjects with her charity and charm. Now an international team of scientists say they think they've found the body of Princess Eadgyth (pronounced Edith)—a 10th-century noblewoman who has been compared to Princess Diana.

"She was a very, very popular person," said Mark Horton, an archaeology professor at Bristol University in western England. "She was sort of the Diana of her day if you like—pretty and full of good works."

Horton is one of a team of experts working to verify the identity of some bones found bundled in silk at Magdeburg Cathedral in Germany.

Should the skeleton be positively identified as belonging to Eadgyth, it would be oldest remains of any English royal discovered so far. Experts say her closest competitors—the bones of various Saxon royals in Winchester Cathedral in southern England—are so hopelessly jumbled together that no single person can be identified.

"If (Eadgyth's) skeleton is intact then, yes, as far as I'm aware, it would be the earliest identifiable remains from Anglo-Saxon England," said Simon Keynes, a professor of Anglo-Saxon history at the University of Cambridge. The skeleton was uncovered as part of a wider research project into Magdeburg Cathedral, about 90 miles (150 kilometers) west of Berlin. The elaborate 16th-century monument in which the body was found was long thought to be empty.

When archaeologists opened the monument in 2008, they found a lead coffin bearing her name and carrying a nearly complete set of bones wrapped in silk.

AP

In this April 1, 2009 file photo, textile pieces taken from the "Editha Casket" are under a microscope at the state office for the preservation of monuments and archeology in Halle, eastern Germany.

Horton said the skeleton belonged to a woman between 30 years and 40 years of age. But there is some doubt as to whether it is the late royal: Historians believe Eadgyth's body was moved several times—a common practice as far as the bodies of saints and royalty were concerned.

"The inscription (on the coffin) says she's been moved twice previously," Horton said, adding there's archaeological evidence of at least two more moves.

It was possible that the bones were lost and swapped with someone else's during any one of the moves, he said.

"Quite often they scooped up any old bones and put them in," he noted.

Tests will now be performed to figure out the age of the bones and where they come from, including strontium isotope analysis—a technique that measures the ratio of strontium isotopes in a person's tooth enamel to determine where they grew up.

Because different isotope ratios correspond to different kinds of geographic locations, the technique can help pinpoint where a person lived.

"Strontium is the smoking gun if you like," Horton said.

Gareth Williams, a curator at the British Museum, said the technique was "fairly highly regarded" among archeologists and should be able to show whether the skeleton's owner grew up in Germany or England, for example.

Keynes said if the skeleton could be shown to come from western or southern England there would be little doubt it was Eadgyth.

"If you can tell that scientifically, then wow," he said.

Eadgyth grew up at the dawn of the 10th century, a period during which her half brother King Athelstan extended his rule over all of England and drew on his sisters to cement his influence among foreign rulers.

"He's well known for having a superfluity of half sisters, and he married them off to the ruling houses of the rest of the known world," Keynes said.

Signs point to Friday farewell for Conan O'Brien

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Conan O'Brien all but posted a farewell banner on this week's "Tonight" shows as his exit negotiations with NBC neared their conclusion Wednesday.

In the late-night tradition of a star-studded goodbye, O'Brien's guests Thursday include such big names as Robin Williams and Barry Manilow. Tom Hanks was scheduled for Friday, as was Will Ferrell—the first guest O'Brien welcomed when he started last June as "Tonight" host.

And then there was this joke from his monologue Tuesday: "Hi, I'm Conan O'Brien, and I'm just three days away from the biggest drinking binge in history."

It was yet another indication that he's bracing for the bitter end of his brief tenure at "Tonight," less than eight months after taking over as host from Jay Leno. The show previously had been scheduled for reruns next week.

The red-headed comedian was negotiating with NBC for a severance package of more than $30 million, which would clear the way for Leno to return to late night. The proposed deal would allow O'Brien to work at another network as soon as this fall.

The announcement of an agreement was possible Thursday as the sides worked to resolve the final hurdle: compensation for O'Brien's staff and crew of about 200 people.

O'Brien was said to be "dug in" on the issue out of concern for the workers, while NBC said this week that it had already agreed to pay "millions of dollars to compensate every one of them" and deemed it a public relations "ploy."

Meanwhile, the comedy assault on NBC continued on "The Jay Leno Show."

Referring to the stormy California weather Wednesday, Leno said, "this rain couldn't have come at a worse possible time. Today was the day NBC was supposed to burn down the studio for the insurance money."

NBC's effort to keep both O'Brien and Leno at the network ran aground when Leno's experimental prime-show show drew poor ratings and affiliate complaints that forced its cancellation. When NBC proposed moving Leno back to 11:35 p.m. EST with a half-hour show, O'Brien refused to host "Tonight" at 12:05 a.m.

O'Brien, after posting lackluster numbers, has seen his viewership jump in recent days. His Monday night Nielsen Co. rating was up more than 60 percent in total viewers over the previous fourth quarter average and up about 80 percent among advertiser-favored young adults.

Fox executives have expressed admiration for O'Brien but said they couldn't discuss opportunities with him while he's under contract to NBC.

O'Brien's recent "Tonight" monologues have been notable for a barrage of jokes at the expense of NBC and Leno ("I just want to say to the kids out there watching: You can do anything you want in life, unless Jay Leno wants to do it, too," was one crack).

His final shows may be far less celebratory than those of his long-serving predecessors but, like them, he'll have top-notch company.

Lawyer: Infection puts Charlie Sheen's wife in ICU

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen's wife, Brooke, was in a hospital intensive care unit Wednesday with a high fever and an infection following oral surgery, her lawyer said.

Attorney Yale Galanter said Brooke Sheen was running a fever of 105 degrees when she was taken to Sherman Oaks Hospital.

She had already obtained a postponement of a hearing in the Colorado domestic violence case against her actor husband because she was to undergo the surgery.

Galanter, who was reached in Aspen, Colo., said the hearing that had been rescheduled for Friday will have to be postponed again.

"She has an infection as the result of oral surgery earlier in the week," said Galanter. "They're concerned and trying to get it under control."

Meanwhile, Charlie Sheen was attempting to get permission to visit his wife in the hospital. A court order prevents them from communicating with each other. A judge was expected to rule later in the day on his request.

A message left Wednesday with Charlie Sheen's spokesman, Stan Rosenfield, was not immediately returned.

AP

In this Sept. 20, 2009, file photo, actor Charlie Sheen, right, and his wife Brooke Mueller arrive at the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Both of the Sheens had been expected to attend the hearing in Aspen, where police were called to their home on Christmas Day.

They were expected to ask Pitkin County District Court Judge James Boyd to throw out or revise a protection order that prevents the couple from contacting each other. Such protection orders are standard in cases of alleged domestic violence.

Prosecutors oppose the request.

A police officer's arrest affidavit quoted Brooke Sheen as saying the actor pinned her on a bed while holding a knife to her throat and told her that she "better be in fear." The officer said Brooke Sheen reported her husband also told her that he could hire ex-police "who know how to get the job done and they won't leave any trace."

Charlie Sheen denies threatening his wife. His initial court appearance on the charges is now scheduled for Feb. 8.

Galanter earlier asked the court to allow his client to participate in this week's hearing by telephone because of the oral surgery. Boyd denied the motion but did reschedule it.

The Sheens, who have twin baby sons, have said they want to reconcile.

Charlie Sheen, 44, stars in the CBS comedy "Two and a Half Men."

Grammys will stage 3-D tribute to Michael Jackson

NEW YORK (AP)—The Grammys are staging an unprecedented tribute in honor of Michael Jackson including a 3-D film clip the singer made before his death.

A posthumous tribute to Jackson will be a focal point of the Jan. 31 Grammy Awards broadcast, the Recording Academy announced Tuesday.

It will include a 3-D clip Jackson made for his hit "Earth Song," a video that was to be integral to his comeback concerts in London in July 2009—shows that never happened because of his June 25 death.

Usher, Celine Dion, Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Hudson and Smokey Robinson will perform alongside the clip. Co-executive producer Ken Ehrlich said will be the first time an awards show will feature 3-D.

Jackson will also be honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Recording Academy during the show.

Last year, the show's producers wanted Jackson to take part in the telecast to celebrate the 25th anniversary of "Thriller."

Ehrlich had presented several ideas for performers, including Justin Timberlake and Usher, all of which excited Jackson. But in the end, he declined the show's invitation.

"He just wasn't ready for it," Ehrlich said.

Ehrlich produced the televised memorial to Jackson last year. He was with the singer the night before he died—and that's when he first saw the 3-D clip of "Earth Song," a call to action about the destruction of nature and animals by man.

"There are these incredible images of the beauties of nature, and then they are seen through the eyes of a little girl, and that girl falls asleep and when she wakes up, she is witness to the destruction of nature," said Ehrlich. "It's all about questioning what our values are."

While a part of the clip was shown in the recent movie documentary "This Is It," Ehrlich says the Grammys will show the full piece in 3-D.

He said TV viewers will need 3-D glasses to experience the full effect of the clip

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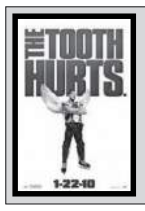
Up In The Air
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
George Clooney, Vera Farmiga
Comedy Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
Juno's Jason Reitman heads into corporate America territory once again with this adaptation of Walter Kirn's novel Up in the Air for Montecito Pictures. The plot surrounds a human resource administrator (George Clooney) whose life up in the friendly skies becomes his only world as he works to reach his one-millionth frequent flyer mile.



The Tooth Fairy
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG
Synopsis
20th Century Fox presents this family comedy following a star hockey player's (Dwayne Johnson) temporary transformation into a full-fledged tooth fairy as penalty for discouraging a young fan. Director Michael Lembeck (The Santa Clause 2 and 3) helms the family comedy, based on a screenplay by veteran comedic writers Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, with additional writing provided by Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia. Ashley Judd and Julie Andrews co-star in the Blumhouse and Mayhem Pictures production.

I Love You, Goodbye
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Derek Ramsay, Angelica Panganiban
Romance, Drama • Rated NR
Synopsis
Gary (Derek Ramsay) and Lizelle (Angelica Panganiban) are lovers for 4 years. One day in the search for a better life and future they decide to work together in a cruise ship and both attend an interview test on the ship. During the test both are required to jump into the sea with Lizelle getting scared and failing the test, making her ineligible to work on the cruise ship. Gary then proceeds to work on the cruise ship leaving Lizelle behind without saying goodbye to her. Gary's unexpected departure makes Lizelle really sad and this also marks the end of their relationship.

The Book of Eli
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman
Action • Rated R

The Spy Next Door
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Jackie Chan, George Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG

Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Sqeakquel
Friday 4:15 7:25 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:25
Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler
Children, Family • Rated PG

Avatar
Friday 3:55 6:55 10:00
Saturday 12:50 3:55 6:55 10:00
Sunday 12:50 3:55 6:55
Mon thru Thurs 3:55 6:55
Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13
NO PASSES NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
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John Cena talks about latest film

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Wrestling star John Cena said he's enjoying the challenge of acting in his very first dramatic film.

The "WWE Monday Night RAW" star's only two previous movies—2006's "The Marine" and last year's "12 Rounds"—were action films that involved "blowing things up" and "dodging bullets," Cena said Wednesday.

While in New Orleans for the filming of "Brother's Keeper," a World Wrestling Entertainment movie that also stars Danny Glover, Patricia Clarkson and Devon Graye, Cena called the project "a great change of pace."

"This one is a lot less physically demanding," he said. "I feel like I've been able to get involved in the story, and it's an easy story to embrace. I think everybody will be able to pull something from it."

AP

In this March 25, 2009 file photo, professional wrestler and actor John Cena poses for a portrait in New York.

The plot centers on a socially awkward teenage boy, played by Graye, who tries to reconnect his family after the death of his collegiate wrestling star father by following in his father's footsteps. In a scene being filmed Wednesday, Cena, who plays Graye's estranged older brother, shows up at the younger boy's high school to watch him compete in a wrestling match.

Clarkson plays their mother and Glover plays the role of a charming and mysterious man who shows up at pivotal times in the life of Graye's character.

"It'll be a good watch," Cena said. "People will walk away from this movie feeling good about themselves."

Filming is scheduled to run through the end of January, said David Calloway, the movie's producer who is also vice president of WWE Studios.

Polanski victim wants director given time served

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The attorney for the victim in Roman Polanski's 32-year-old sex case is joining his lawyers' bid to have the director sentenced in absentia to time served.

Attorney Lawrence Silver on Wednesday faxed to other lawyers in the case a motion he planned to file Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court, asking that the director be sentenced in absentia. On behalf of the victim, Samantha Geimer, Silver also is supporting a motion by Polanski's lawyers urging that Polanski be sentenced to time served.

Silver accused prosecutors of violating the California Constitution when they failed to tell Geimer of their plans to seek Polanski's extradition to the U.S.

Geimer was 13 when she met Polanski for a modeling shoot in Los Angeles in 1977.

Polanski ultimately pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse as part of a plea deal.

Emeril taking it up a notch on a new network

Emeril Lagasse is trying his hand at the talk show format as he launches a new weekly prime-time series that will mix equal parts music, celebrities and food.

Like Lagasse's long-running Food Network series, "Emeril Live!", his new hour-long "The Emeril Lagasse Show" on the ION Television network will be taped before a live audience and feature a band on set.

Emeril

The Food Network ceased production of "Emeril Live" in 2007. In early 2008, the rights to Lagasse's franchise of books, television shows and kitchen products were purchased by Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc., which will share production oversight of the new show with ION Television.

Lagasse continues to host "Emeril Green," a Planet Green cable series in which he helps novice cooks prepare wholesome meals. "The Emeril Lagasse Show" will air Sundays at 8 p.m. beginning March 28. ***(AP)***

Judge: Gun stays as evidence in Ja Rule's NYC case

NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper Ja Rule lost a bid Wednesday to keep a loaded gun found in his luxury car from being used against him in a weapons-possession case.

Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Richard Carruthers rejected the platinum-selling artist's argument that the gun was found during an unjustified police stop of his Maybach sports car after a July 2007 concert.

His lawyer, Stacey Richman, said outside court she disagreed with the judge's decision and would pursue other avenues to fight the charges.

Prosecutors said the traffic stop was proper because the chauffeured car was speeding and had a suspended registration and no insurance. Richman said authorities were looking for reasons to pull over Ja Rule and other rappers after the show, a claim prosecutors denied.

After stopping the $250,000 to $400,000 car, police said they smelled marijuana and found a .40-caliber semiautomatic gun in the rear driver's side door.

Carruthers threw out the rapper's statement to police that he had "a little bit of weed" in his pocket. He isn't charged with drug possession.

The gravelly-voiced Ja Rule, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, rose to fame in the late 1990s.

AP

In this Oct. 24, 2009 file photo, rapper Ja Rule poses for photographers as he arrives to the Fashion Rocks event in Rio de Janeiro.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

9 foreign-language films advance in Oscar race

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nine foreign-language films are on the short list in this year's Oscar race. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences says a committee of "several hundred" members selected the nine films from 65 that qualified in the category. Still in contention for an Academy Award nomination are "El Secreto de Sus Ojos" from Argentina, "Samson & Delilah" from Australia, Bulgaria's "The World Is Big and Salvation Lurks around the Corner," "Un Prophete" from France, Golden Globe winner "The White Ribbon" from Germany, Israel's "Ajami," Kazakhstan's "Kelin," "Winter in Wartime" from the Netherlands and Peru's "Milk of Sorrow." Nominations for the 82nd annual Academy Awards will be announced Feb. 2.

Lindsay Lohan to attend Vienna Opera Ball

VIENNA (AP) — A limelight-loving Austrian says he's taking Lindsay Lohan to the famous Vienna Opera Ball next month. Richard Lugner, a quirky 77-year-old entrepreneur known for his young girlfriends and appearance on reality TV, invites a different female star to the flashy event each year and keeps local media in suspense for weeks before divulging his pick. Lohan is an American actress who has starred in films such as "Mean Girls" and "Herbie Fully Loaded." Lugner's recent dates include Nicollette Sheridan, Dita Von Teese and Paris Hilton. This year's Opera Ball takes place Feb. 11. Lugner announced his choice Wednesday.

Former 'Survivor' contestant Lyon dead at 37

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Former "Survivor" contestant Jennifer Lyon has died at age 37. Lyon was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005, the same year she finished fourth on the CBS reality show. A network representative confirmed her death Wednesday. Lyon was raised in the Columbia River city of The Dalles. Her biography on CBS.com says she attended Portland State and Western Oregon universities before graduating from Oregon State. She joined the "Survivor Palau" competition as a nanny and graduate student from California. Following her diagnosis, she became an advocate for breast cancer awareness. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst said in a statement he reconnected with Lyon several years ago and stayed in touch during her cancer treatment. In his words, "Her wisdom about how to live a life with quality seemed to grow with each passing day." Probst said Lyon died in Oregon.

Daughter of murdered man rejoices in holiday miracle

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I wrote you in October and received your personal reply. I'm the girl whose dad was murdered, and I was looking for a support group. You referred me to the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, which provides mutual support to persons who have survived the violent death of someone close (www.pomc.org).

I have a little "upper" for you now. We all know about the letters you have printed about Pennies from Heaven, but I don't know if there ever has been one like this.

My dad always wore a gold cross around his neck. He never, ever took it off, so naturally I asked the funeral director to have him shown in it but asked that it be removed before the burial.

Well, lo and behold, it was nowhere to be found. So we called everywhere we could think of to locate it and ended up thinking that somewhere along the way from his being killed, taken to the ER, to autopsy, to the funeral home, it had been lost forever.

A few days before Christmas, we found it! It was in a box of pennies my dad had collected. He must have taken it off before he left that night because he had been seen in it earlier that day.

We all believe in miracles, and this is my very own Christmas miracle. Thank you, Abby, for everything you do for so many of us who are suffering. I love you.

SARAH

DEAR SARAH: Thank you for your kind letter. It touched my heart as I know it will the hearts of my readers. I don't know when your father removed his cross, but take comfort in knowing he left it to bring you solace, and I hope that it serves its purpose. I love you, too.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a great job working with people I enjoy, and probably the coolest boss in the world. There is just one little problem. He keeps asking me to go out with his daughter.

She is a wonderful person, smart and absolutely beautiful—but she is also recently divorced. I'm afraid I would just be the "in-between" guy for her—a stepping-stone to her recovery. In other words, whatever happens would be at my expense.

How can I politely tell my boss that I cannot date his daughter?

REALIST IN UTAH

DEAR REALIST: Tell him you are flattered, that you think his daughter is smart and absolutely beautiful and a wonderful person. Then tell him you know how painful a divorce can be and you would prefer to wait until she is emotionally back on her feet and has gotten her bearings before inviting her out.

Do not completely reject the idea because in six months or a year, if she is still available, you may change your mind.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm having a dispute with my husband. He thinks that you screw in a lightbulb clockwise. I disagree. I say counter-clockwise. Which of us is correct?

ERIKA IN PELHAM, ALA.

DEAR ERIKA: He is. You screw in a lightbulb by turning it to the right, the same way you tighten the lid on a jar -- which is clockwise. The mnemonic for this is: "Right is tight; left is loose."

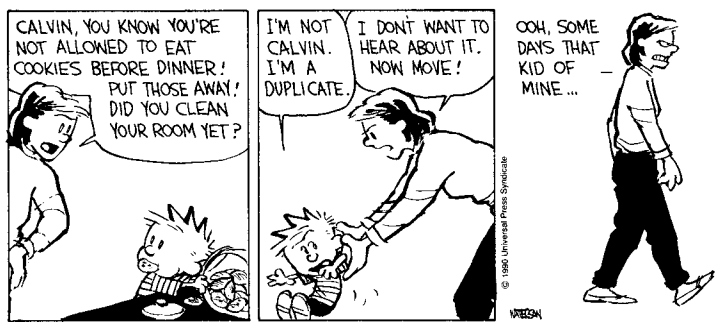
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO EAT COOKIES BEFORE DINNER! PUT THOSE AWAY! DID YOU CLEAN YOUR ROOM YET?
I'M NOT CALVIN. I'M A DUPLICATE.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT. NOW MOVE!
OOH, SOME DAYS THAT KID OF MINE...
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WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!
WHY? ARE YOU TAKING A SURVEY?
1-22

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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JIM DAVIS 1-22
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I'M NOW TALLER!
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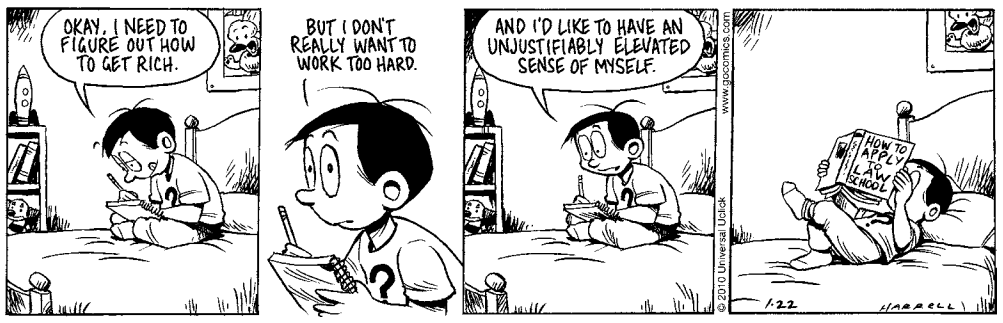
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET RICH.
BUT I DON'T REALLY WANT TO WORK TOO HARD.
AND I'D LIKE TO HAVE AN UNJUSTIFIABLY ELEVATED SENSE OF MYSELF.
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HOW TO APPLY TO LAW SCHOOL
1-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW LONG IS THE WAIT?
WE CAN SEAT YOU IN ABOUT FORTY MINUTES.
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1-22-10
NO. I MEAN THE WAIT TO BE SEATED AND THEN HAVE A WAITER TAKE MY ORDER AND BRING MY FOOD.
SIX HOURS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Scenery chewer
4 Resort
7 Wimbledon surface
12 Chicken-king link
13 Stolen
14 Proportion
15 Old soldier
16 Henny Youngman's repertoire
18 Make up your mind
19 Hatred
20 Bistro name starter, often
22 Type measures
23 Movie pig
27 "— Town"
29 Cheap
31 Track legend Jesse
34 Sports venue
35 Requiring bicolored glasses
37 "CSI" evidence
38 Fly catcher?
39 — Today
41 Opening day?
45 Memorable mission
47 Illustrations
48 Bluff
52 Dove's call
53 Bring the meal
54 Funnyman DeLuise
55 Pump up the volume
56 Words to live by
57 Officeholders
58 Existed

DOWN
1 Devastation
2 Hebrew letter
3 Photo finish
4 "Get outta here!"
5 Mull over
6 Had a home-cooked meal
7 Somber
8 Operated
9 Goddess of foolhardiness
10 Madam's counterpart
11 "Mayday!"
17 A deadly sin
21 Like urban land
23 Powdered cleaning agent
24 Copper head?
25 Crib
26 Timetable abbr.
28 Work with
30 Ashen
31 Mel of Cooperstown
32 Personal question?
33 Historic time
36 Lack-luster
37 Variety of plum
40 Riyadh resident
42 Showy parrot
43 Bakery lure
44 Subway stations
45 Kind of hairdo
46 Resistance units
48 Radio watchdog org.
49 Rowing need
50 Salt Lake City athlete
51 Scarlet

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	H	■	H	A	Z	E	■	P	O	S	E
P	T	A	■	A	M	I	N	■	L	I	L	Y
H	A	I	R	P	I	N	S	■	A	L	O	E
■	■	R	A	P	■	G	U	E	S	S	E	D
P	A	L	M	E	R	■	E	A	T	■	■	■
A	L	I	■	N	I	P	■	R	I	L	E	S
P	U	N	S	■	G	A	B	■	C	O	P	E
A	M	E	N	D	■	S	I	R	■	N	E	E
■	■	■	O	A	R	■	B	U	R	G	E	R
S	T	A	R	D	O	M	■	D	A	H	■	■
C	O	O	K	■	W	I	R	E	H	A	I	R
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R	E	E	L	■	D	E	N	Y	■	R	E	D

Yesterday's answer 1-22

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10	11
12			■	13			■	14				
15			■	16			17					
18			■	19					■	■	■	■
20			21	■	22			■	23	24	25	26
■	■	■	27	28		■	29	30				
31	32	33			■	■	■	34				
35					36	■	37			■	■	■
38				■	39	40		■	41	42	43	44
■	■	■	■	45				46	■	47		
48	49	50	51							52		
53					■	54				55		
56					■	57			■	58		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robyn Richards, 23; Willa Ford, 29; Diane Lane, 45; Linda Blair, 51

Happy Birthday: You are intuitive, so follow your feelings especially when dealing with personal and financial matters. You can make some wise money decisions if you are creative with your accounting and budgeting. It's a year of discovering, seeing and doing, so be willing to take advantage of whatever comes your way. Your numbers are 4, 12, 18, 21, 23, 30, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Follow your instincts when it comes to love and personal relationships. Stick to people who have common interests and beliefs. Socializing will lead to a chance meeting with someone who has something worthwhile to offer. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may have to confront someone you care for in order to follow through with your plans. Anger will get you nowhere but generosity, understanding and the power of persuasion will help you get your way. An authoritative figure will have a change of heart. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can take care of any personal problems you face with someone you love or want to get into a relationship with by addressing issues head-on. Your intentions will be up for discussion and you'll need to explain in depth to put the people you care about at ease. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't overreact or become suspicious when there is nothing to worry about. You will cause problems at a personal level if you try to limit or restrict someone you love. You must hide your emotions even if it is difficult. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Avoid people who are always down-and-out or negative. You need to keep a positive attitude if you want to excel. Take a creative approach to your money matters and you will find a way to make your dollars work for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Welcome any opposition and you will find out quickly whom you can trust. Changes to your current living arrangements will enable you to accommodate someone or something you want to pursue. Don't worry about complaints. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let anything slow you down or stand in your way. Take on whatever challenge you face and you will surprise someone you want to get to know better. An emotional situation will allow you to make a commitment and stabilize your future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Look forward with optimism and stop wasting your time living in the past. You can't change what's already happened but you can do something about the future. Conduct your plans with strength and courage until you reach your goals. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Love, romance and socializing will bring about opportunities to make significant personal changes. A short trip will pay off if you visit someone you miss or want to reconnect with. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll have trouble handling your emotions, especially if you are upset about a financial, legal or health matter. You must face problems head on and refuse to let anyone criticize or bring you down. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It's vital that you keep moving forward so that you don't slip back into old ways or habits. Someone you've known for a long time is interested in getting to know you better. Get back to doing the things you used to enjoy. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Limitations will prevail when dealing with a professional colleague or partner but, if you take action and show what you have to offer, you can make headway. Set new ground rules and make sure everyone involved in your plan gets equal billing. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, outgoing and unique. You are intuitive and sincere and will find a unique solution to whatever you face.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	8		1	3		
				9				
3								5
4			6		7			2
	3						5	
9			1		3			8
2								7
				6				
		1	4		9	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	5	9	4	8	1	3	6
4	6	1	2	3	7	9	8	5
3	9	8	1	6	5	4	7	2
9	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	1
2	8	4	3	1	9	5	6	7
1	7	3	4	5	6	2	9	8
5	4	9	8	7	1	6	2	3
6	3	7	5	2	4	8	1	9
8	1	2	6	9	3	7	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PEROGIES — **Solution: 9 letters**

A	R	O	B	N	E	E	U	Q	F	R	E	S	H	Y
I	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	P	O	L	I	S	H
K	T	P	D	K	C	I	U	Q	T	D	C	S	I	T
I	E	T	E	H	H	S	S	A	L	G	R	M	D	L
N	E	S	E	T	R	G	E	O	N	R	I	U	U	A
E	W	E	P	L	I	M	U	I	R	A	C	S	C	E
R	S	W	L	I	S	Z	L	O	C	N	R	H	N	H
E	F	I	R	T	T	P	E	D	D	D	O	R	O	L
V	F	L	A	H	Ⓜ	F	I	R	L	M	L	O	I	A
E	E	P	O	U	A	Ⓐ	A	N	E	O	L	O	T	V
R	L	N	D	A	S	A	Ⓢ	M	C	T	F	M	I	I
E	P	E	I	N	T	T	A	Ⓗ	E	H	I	S	D	T
T	O	Z	N	I	S	D	S	G	G	E	E	U	A	S
A	E	O	E	A	E	S	E	N	U	R	P	D	R	E
W	P	D	E	N	E	V	A	E	L	N	U	M	T	F

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 1/22

Appetizer, Cheese, Christmas, Circle, Curd, Deep, Dine, Dish, Dough, Dozen, Dumpling, East, Eggs, Fame, Festival, Fill, Float, Fold, Fresh, Fruit, Glass, Grandmother, Healthy, Homemade, Lithuanian, Mash, Meat, Mushrooms, People, Pinched, Polish, Potatoes, Prunes, Queen Bora, Quick, Roll, Staple, Sweet, Tradition, Unleavened, Vereniki, Water, West

Yesterday's Answer: Electric

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

STORE MARKET
BAZAAR MART
SHOP EMPORIUM

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Find today's solution in this section

GARAGE SALE

Location: Her-Joy's Apartment in San Antonio
Days: Jan.22 & 23 Friday (5-7pm) Saturday (7am-2pm)

FOR SALE

Customized Nissan Altima
Mileage: 19,500
Engine upgrades, body kit etc..
Year: 2003
As price **$16,000.00** or best offer

Contact Betty:
256-4770 or 285-2990

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **RICARDO R. DADO and DELIA S. DADO,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 09-0466-CV** **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT RICARDO R. DADO :

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the Complaint for Foreclosure by Plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; and in case of failure to do so, a default may be rendered against you according to the demand of the Complaint for Foreclosure, which have been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So ORDERED this 17th day of December, 2009.

/s/Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

Atty. Rober Myers (F0365)
The Law Office of RH Myers Jr
PO box 5190 CHRB
Saipan, MP U.S.A. 96950
Tel.: 234-3184 ext 104
Fax: 234-3077
Email: Info@Lwyr4u.com
Web: Lwyr4u.com

Counsel for Plaintiff
NINO LUIS B. CAMACHO, JR.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NINO LUIS B. CAMACHO, JR. Plaintiff, vs. **LUIS I. CAMACHO,** Defendant.	**CASE NO. 07-0460 FCD-PA** **NOTICE OF MOTION**

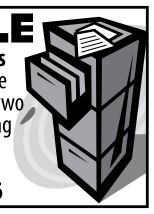
DATE: February 4, 2010
Time: 1:30 P.M.
Judge: Hon. Kenneth L. Govendo

NOTICE is now given that Plaintiff, Nino Luis B. Camacho, Jr., (the "Plaintiff") will move through the undersigned counsel for an order allowing substitute service on the defendant, Luis I. Camacho, (the "Defendant") on 4th day of February, 2010 at 1:30 PM in the Commonwealth Superior Court in Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP. This motion is under Com. R. Civ. P.4.

Dated: **December 30, 2009.**

/s/ **Atty. Rober Myers, Jr.**
The Law Office of RH Myers Jr
Counsel for Plaintiff
NINO LUIS B. CAMACHO, JR.

FOR SALE
Steel Filing cabinets
Legal size: Two of three drawers and Three of two drawers. Some hanging folders included.
Location Sadog Tasi Drive. Call 323-2676



QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... **$25.00**
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

ENTERTAINMENT

USSP-Thirsty Nights Pool Competition. FREE Entry-every Thurs. & Sun. New Yr. Dart Shoot Out. Free-Entry every Wed. Nights. Cash & prizes will be awarded to each winner.

USSP-LIVE RECORDING CD OFFER Every Mon. & Tues. Nights. Starting Jan 25, 2010 Cheap & Affordable price package. Call/Txt Rose @ 233-1984/286-7653 for more details

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars preferably, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Suzuki & Isuzu. Must bee 2000 & above model. We pay cash! Please call 287-7676.

WHATZIT Solution: Trading places

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Oceanview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Announcement on Termination of Mr. Luo Xiaodong's Service with CEDA

China International Contractors Association (CHINCA) discontinued CNMI Chinese Economic Development Association (CEDA)'s operation in Saipan in early June, 2009 and Mr. Luo Xiaodong, then Vice-President of CEDA, also ceased to function as the said position. On July 31st, 2009, CHINCA terminated the employment contract with Mr. Luo Xiaodong. Therefore, as of that date, **all the activities undertaken by Mr. Luo Xiaodong would belong to his personal behavior and have nothing to do with CEDA.**

China International Contractors Association
Jan. 20th, 2010

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

Recruitment For Zoning Administrator

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office, which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law with assistance of legal counsel, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on February 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed about 6000 inquiries and zoning permits. The Zoning Board is committed to professionally administering the Law; maintaining close contact with elected officials, the public, other agencies and the business community; and adapting the Law to changing circumstances.

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field such as engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, public administration and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222).

Preferred Competencies: Knowledge of zoning and land use control and planning theory and practice including preparation, administration and enforcement. Knowledge of records management techniques including permit record systems, databases and Geographic Information Systems. Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Internet browsers. Skill in researching printed and Internet documents and ability to quickly compile and analyze information and prepare concise reports. Ability to supervise and motivate others and to cooperatively work in a team setting. Ability to work effectively with Zoning Board members; political, business and community leaders; and with the general public in cross-cultural settings with people with English as a second language. Previous experience administering zoning laws, regulations or ordinances. Ability to balance competing work demands and set priorities. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing in English. Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain. Work experience in Micronesia, preferably the Northern Mariana Islands, and have working knowledge about laws, government regulations and administrative procedures is an advantage.

The maximum annual salary is $50,000. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Herminia Fusco, Chair, Commonwealth Zoning Board and must be received at the Zoning Office by February 19, 2010. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, at least three most recent (from 2008 to 2009) writing samples (personally authored), a CNMI Application For Employment, a resume and other documents as listed on the employment application checklist and as requested. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: Friday, January 22, 2010 Closing Date: Friday, February 5, 2010

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	Salary	Contract	Location
10-011	Accounting Specialist	[One Position]	$21,104-$25,852	Two-year	Accounting Office, Saipan

*This is a re-announcement of JVA 09-030. All applications of 09-030 will be included in 10-011.

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 • Fax (670) 235-5131

Marianas Maid Services

Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?

LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

*****SPARKLE*****

Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.

All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.

Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.

Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

GLIMPSES ADVERTISING
GLIMPSES PUBLICATIONS

JOIN OUR GROUP

We are in search of the best candidate to fill the position of

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Responsible for managing all the activities of our professional advertising and publications firm. Must have at least five years related experience performing in a management capacity; Bachelor's Degree (B.A.) and related field of work a plus.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
We verify the identity and work eligibility of all employees in a non-discriminatory basis.

Please submit summary of qualifications in person to HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT located at 2/F Transpac Business Center Middle Road Gualo Rai Saipan MP 96950 by February 1, 2010.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Announcement No. 10-001

POSITION TITLE: Trades Helper
PAY LEVEL: 11/03 – 11/12
Salary will commensurate with qualifications
LOCATION: Tinian, CNMI
OPENING DATE: January 22, 2010
CLOSING DATE: February 9, 2010

Minimum Qualifications Requirements: High School Graduate, GED, or its equivalent or one (1) year of experience in general grounds maintenance or other related positions. Applicants must have a valid CNMI Driver's license.

HOW TO APPLY
Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Tinian Office at (670) 433-9365 or the MVA Saipan Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for employment application forms. A completed application should be submitted together with the required documentation to complete the application process no later than the closing date of this announcement.

MVA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Palms on PauPau Beach, Saipan Micronesia

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Palms Resort Saipan is seeking an energetic, enthusiastic and experienced individual for the following position:

RECREATION MANAGER

Requirements:
- At least 2-years of College Education
- Must have 2-years of Recreation Manager experienced in the hotel industry.
- Enforce rules and regulations of recreational facilities to maintain discipline and ensure safety.
- Manage the daily operations of recreational facilities.
- Administer first aid according to prescribed procedures, and notify emergency medical personnel when necessary.
- Organize, lead, and promote interest in recreational activities such as arts, crafts, sports, games, camping, and hobbies.
- Greet new arrivals to activities, introducing them to other participants, explaining facility rules, and encouraging participation.
- Confer with management to discuss and resolve participant complaints.
- Explain principles, techniques, and safety procedures to participants in recreational activities, and demonstrate use of materials and equipment.
- Evaluate recreation areas, facilities, and services to determine if they are producing desired results.
- Must be a certified lifeguard.
- Must be a certified CPR.

U.S. CITIZEN/RESIDENTS PREFERRED.
Applications may be picked up and submitted at the Security Office, Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Angamwas rules 4-perso
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPE
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointme
DPH to ask for extension of emerg
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now
10 DAYS to go before Christmas
OPINION METER
Should NMC revisit its policy of allowing the termination of NMC employees without cause?
Fitial: Ombudsman
accommodate 'ove
Immigration FORUM

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235-NEWS

COSMOS Distributing Co. (Saipan), Ltd.
PMB 521 PPP P.O. Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-5950/58 Fax: (670) 322-5959

Sales Representative

Our company is a dynamic wholesaler and distributor of leading consumer goods, popular general merchandise and institutional products in Guam and in the CNMI. We are currently in need of a Sales Representative for Cosmos Saipan with the following requirements:

1. Minimum of two (2) years experience in sales and marketing preferably from a wholesale or distributor company. With lube selling experience is a plus.
2. Must possess excellent customer service, written and oral communication skills.
3. Must be computer literate and knowledgeable in word processing and spreadsheet software.
4. Must possess a valid driver's license and with a good driving record.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the sales of assigned products and merchandise to retail stores and other outlets from existing accounts or thru newly acquired customers. His/her job will entail regular visits to establishments and sales calls on existing and prospective customers to solicit orders. He/she must be able to meet monthly sales goals.

Interested applicants may send their resume to: thchr@tanholdings.com

Cosmos is an Equal Employment Employer.

DFS

DFS SAIPAN LIMITED has job openings for

Concierge

Responsible for establishing relations, providing and delivering the highest quality and outstanding personalize service delivered with a sense of warmth, friendliness, individual pride, and unforgettable shopping experience to our customers. Issues, records, and monitors all customer cards and transactions associated with customer cards. Set up and maintain an orderly and efficient filing system. Prepares a variety of reports and correspondence for submission to the supervisor.

Beauty advisor

Demonstrates excellence in customer service at all times. Assist customers in selecting, purchasing, refunding merchandise on a daily basis. Completes all transactions in a professional and timely manner. Works cooperatively with co-workers to accomplish sales and service goals. Maintains display and presentation standards at all times. Be a contributing member of Beauty Team at counter, store and region level. Execute planned promotions and events.

Prospective applicants will be subject for pre-employment drug test and will be required to submit police clearance upon hiring.

Applications are available at the reception area, 2nd floor of DFS Galleria Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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"My wish is to see my Dad and two brothers!"

share the power of a wish℠

Saipan Tribune

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293 • Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Jazz extends dominance over Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Carlos Boozer had 31 points and 13 rebounds, leading the Utah Jazz to a fourth victory over the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA this season, winning 105-98 on Wednesday.

The Jazz hadn't won in San Antonio in a decade entering this season, but Utah can now claim two road wins over the Spurs. This one wasn't easy, but Utah prevailed in a game of wild swings.

Manu Ginobili scored 22 points for the Spurs, who used a 25-0 run in the first half to dig themselves out of their own 12-0 deficit. The Jazz then clawed their way back, and had the endurance to hang on.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 26 points for Utah.

Hornets 113, Grizzlies 111

In New Orleans, James Posey scored on a driving layup with 1.1 seconds left to lift New Orleans over Memphis.

Chris Paul scored 10 of his 21 points in the last 4:20 for New Orleans, and also had 13 assists.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 26 points.

Bobcats 104, Heat 65

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Charlotte recorded its most lopsided victory in team history, routing Miami.

Stephen Jackson scored 24 points and Gerald Wallace added 20 points and 10 rebounds as the Bobcats completed a 6-0 homestand.

Miami's Dwayne Wade scored 16 points, but shot 3 for 12 and committed four fouls in the first half while getting outplayed by Jackson. The Heat shot 29 percent.

The 39-point victory topped Charlotte's 35-point rout of Toronto in November for the largest margin of victory in franchise history. The Bobcats improved to an NBA-best 9-1 since the start of the new year. They shot a franchise-best 82 percent in the first quarter, and led by 27 at halftime.

Pistons 92, Celtics 86

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rodney Stuckey scored 27 points and had a career-high 11 rebounds to help Detroit to a surprise win over Boston.

Charlie Villanueva added 19 points for Detroit.

Paul Pierce and Rajon Rondo each scored 21 points for Boston, which has lost three straight for the second time in less than a month.

Mavericks 94, Wizards 93

In Washington, Shawn Marion blocked Caron Butler's jump shot with 1.9 seconds to play, as Dallas edged Washington and extended its streak of victories in one-point games to nine.

Tied for the second-longest streak in NBA history, the Mavericks haven't lost a one-point game for three years. Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points and Jason Terry added 21 for the Mavericks.

Randy Foye led Washington with 26 points.

Hawks 108, Kings 97

In Atlanta, the hosts bounced back from a sluggish start to hand Sacramento its fifth straight loss.

Jamal Crawford scored 20 points to top the Southeast Division-leading Hawks.

Tyreke Evans led Sacramento with 24 points.

Magic 109, Pacers 98

In Orlando, Florida, Orlando won its first game in four, overcoming Indiana.

Dwight Howard had 32 points and 11 rebounds, and Matt Barnes added 16 rebounds, 10 points and six assists to help the streaky Magic build a 29-point first half lead.

The Pacers got within 8 points with 6:45 remaining, but no closer. Granger topped Indiana with 25 points.

Trail Blazers 98, 76ers 90

In Philadelphia, guard Andre Miller scored 24 points against his old team to lead Portland over Philadelphia.

Jerryd Bayless had 14 of his 18 in the fourth quarter for Portland, which was without Bradon Roy in the second half because of a hamstring strain.

Andre Iguodala led Philadelphia with 23 points.

Nuggets 123, Warriors 118, OT

In Oakland, California, Denver made it four straight wins by sinking Golden State in overtime.

Chauncey Billups matched his career high with 37 points, including 10 in overtime.

Monta Ellis had 39 points and 10 assists for Golden State.

Bucks 113, Raptors 107

In Milwaukee, Andrew Bogut had 27 points and 12 rebounds before fouling out, helping Milwaukee hold off Toronto.

Chris Bosh had a career-high 44 points and added 12 rebounds for Toronto.

Clippers 104, Bulls 97

In Los Angeles, Baron Davis scored 11 of his 23 points in the final 3:52 to lift Los Angeles over Chicago.

Marcus Camby had a season-high 25 rebounds for the Clippers, who have won eight of their past nine home games.

Derrick Rose led the Bulls with 23 points.

Thunder 94, Timberwolves 92

In Minneapolis, Oklahoma City passed last season's wins total of 23 by edging Minnesota.

Kevin Durant had 31 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeff Green added 15 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder.

Corey Brewer had 25 points, six assists and five rebounds for Minnesota.

Suns 118, Nets 94

In Phoenix, the hosts won to drop New Jersey to 0-17 against Western Conference teams this season.

Jason Richardson scored 15 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for Phoenix.

Seven-foot twins Robin Lopez of the Suns and Brook of the Nets started against each other for the first time in their two NBA seasons. Robin set a career best for the second time in two games with 20 points. Brook led New Jersey with 26 points and 13 rebounds.

Injured Yao Ming enjoying team owner role in China

BEIJING (AP)—Sidelined by a foot injury, Houston Rockets star Yao Ming says he's finding a new kind of satisfaction as owner of his former Chinese team, the Shanghai Sharks.

Yao bought out the financially troubled team's former owners in July for an undisclosed sum in a bid to revive its fortunes.

The club is presently fourth in the 17-team Chinese league, two points out of first place.

"I bought the Sharks to give them a boost and do something on behalf of Chinese basketball," Yao said in an interview with the official Xinhua News Agency appearing in newspapers Thursday.

"To be honest, they've played well this season, beyond my expectations, but we also see their deficiencies and need to toughen up in the coming seasons."

Yao saved the team after the loss of their main sponsor threatened to keep them out of the league in 2009-2010.

The 7-foot-6 (2.26-meter) center played for the Sharks from 1997 to 2002 and took them to the league championship title in the 2001-2002 season, after being runner-up in the playoffs the previous two years. The team has struggled to make the playoffs since his departure for the NBA.

Yao has dismissed speculation that the investment was a step toward retirement, although recurring injuries have raised fears that his career could be winding down.

He had surgery in May to repair a hairline fracture in his left foot and has said he wants to allow enough time for his bones to fully heal.

Yao has pledged to return Shanghai to its former winning ways while staying out of day-to-day operations and management. Captained by Chinese international Liu Wei and coached by American Bobby Donewald Jr., the Sharks also boast former Houston Rockets guard John Lucas.

AP

Utah Jazz's Carlos Boozer (5) is fouled by San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010 in San Antonio.

Manning, Colts ready for another shot at Jets

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Peyton Manning is on a simple mission this week: Strike fast, stay on the field and take the Colts back to Miami.

The four-time MVP and his Colts teammates can't wait for the journey to begin.

Nearly a month after then-undefeated Indianapolis set off a national firestorm by yanking its starters early against the New York Jets, Manning & Co. will get another at them in this weekend's AFC championship game - even if nobody lets them forget what happened the first time.

"Do you expect to play all four quarters this week?" Manning was asked jokingly before he could even settle in at the podium Wednesday.

"I do, yeah," Manning deadpanned, drawing laughter.

But in Indianapolis, this is no laughing matter.

Furious fans deluged local radio talk shows following Indy's 29-15 loss in Week 16, and fans weren't the only ones upset.

After the game, four-time Pro Bowl center Jeff Saturday said he understood why Indy's home fans booed, other players seemed surprised by coach Jim Caldwell's decision to pull players early and Manning insisted nothing should be read into his body language even though he uncharacteristically kept his helmet on for most of the final 20 minutes that day.

Since then, players and coaches have reached a consensus that they may not be playing in their third AFC title game since 2003 had they not done it this way.

"Really, we've tried to focus in on the things that we thought were in the best interest of our team to get us into the position we are right now," Caldwell said. "That was the ultimate goal."

It's taken the Colts (15-2) a little longer to convince the fans.

Three weeks ago, Manning jumpstarted the reconciliation process after another loss at Buffalo by explaining nothing could be changed. He said it was time to move forward and that he hoped fans would forgive the Colts and provide a united front in the playoffs.

The message resonated.

While other players and team president Bill Polian continued making their pitches, fans responded Saturday night by hitting the highest decibel-level in the two years Lucas Oil Stadium has been the Colts' home. The result: Indy 20, Baltimore 3—the Colts' first postseason victory since Manning was named Super Bowl MVP in February 2007.

A win Sunday, and a ticket to Miami, would finally fix everything.

"I think everybody realizes the opportunity and what's at stake," Manning said. "That's why I think everybody wants to have a good week of preparation, to put ourselves in the best position on Sunday."

Clearly, that means Manning and others will have to perform up to their usually high standards, and the quarterback has had his share of success against Rex Ryan's defenses.

Since 2005, Manning has gone head-to-head with Ryan five times, completing 82 of 132 pass attempts for 1,136 yards with nine touchdowns and two interceptions. Manning is 4-1 in those games—the only loss coming in December after Manning left with a 15-10 lead.

Would things have been different had Manning stayed in?

"The thing is nobody will know," said Rex Ryan, whose Jets were playing to stay alive in the playoff hunt at the time.

Many outsiders believe Indy would have won the game.

Their starters had allowed just one touchdown, a 106-yard kickoff return to start the second half, and Manning was 14 of 21 for 192 yards, barely missing two potentially big plays in the first half before departing.

New York finished the game by rallying for 19 straight points.

But the Colts were short-handed well before they pulled the starters.

Indy played without Pro Bowl defensive end Robert Mathis, linebacker Clint Session, left tackle Charlie Johnson, safety Melvin Bullitt, cornerback Jerraud Powers and receiver Pierre Garcon, who all sat out with injuries.

All, with the possible exception of Powers, should play Sunday.

Powers (foot) was the only Colts player to sit out practice Wednesday, though safety Antoine Bethea (back) and tight end Dallas Clark (illness) were limited participants.

The bigger concern is just playing Colts football—and completing their year-long quest to return to Miami.

"Against these guys, the more familiar you are with them, the better chance it gives you," Manning said. "It doesn't guarantee anything, but it does give you a better chance. That's the focus right now: trying to get prepared mentally and physically to play a good game."

Djokovic, Davydenko into third round; Ivanovic out

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Back on the court where he won his only Grand Slam title, Novak Djokovic overcame an early struggle against a journeyman Swiss player before advancing to the third round of the Australian Open.

The third-ranked Djokovic had nine double-faults and 52 unforced errors in his 3-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win Thursday over Marco Chiudinelli, the Swiss player who was playing in his first Australian Open.

"I was well aware of his quality, and he played extremely well, especially in the first set and the start of the second," Djokovic said. "I was very lucky to get two sets to one up."

"This court is most special because I won my only Grand Slam here," the 22-year-old Serb said of Rod Laver Arena, where he beat Federer in the semifinals en route to the 2008 title. "It has the nicest possible memories."

Djokovic will next play Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin, who beat Michael Berrer of Germany 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Sixth-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, who rarely gets onto the center court at this stage of a Grand Slam, had a 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 win over Ukraine qualifier Illya Marchenko in the low-key manner which has typified an 11-match winning streak.

The 28-year-old Russian doesn't have the profile of Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal, and he's never made a Grand Slam final, but nobody has been playing better lately.

He dominated Marchenko on Show Court 2, which is No. 4 in the pecking order of courts at Melbourne Park, to extend a winning sequence that has included title runs at the World Tour Finals at the end of 2009 and Doha to start this year.

Former No. 1-ranked Ana Ivanovic has the profile, but no recent form to go with it. The 22-year-old Serb extended her run of poor results in a second-round 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-4 loss to Gisela Dulko of Argentina.

Dulko was broken twice while serving for the match before finally breaking Ivanovic's serve—helped by two double-faults from the 2008 French Open champion—to clinch a place in the third round on her sixth match point.

Ivanovic, who lost the 2008 final here, has slipped to No. 21 in the rankings and didn't win a tournament in 2009. It was her first loss to Dulko in their three meetings.

"It's hard. It hurts, I must say. For sure it will. But it's a process," Ivanovic said of her hopes to regain a top-10 position. "I do feel better on the court. I'm playing much better. I feel like my old self. There are still some areas that are not there for me to rely on.

"I just have to sort of keep my head up and try to improve, work."

U.S. Open finalist Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark advanced 6-3, 6-1 over Julia Goerges of Germany and will next play No. 29 Shahar Peer of Israel, who beat Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria 6-1, 6-4.

Among the women advancing were No. 7 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, No. 9 Vera Zvonareva of Russia, No. 10 Agnieszka Radwanska, No. 16 Li Na of China and No. 32 Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain.

On the men's side, 2006 finalist Marcos Baghdatis struggled late with cramping but held on to beat No. 17 David Ferrer of Spain 4-6, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-1.

Colombia's Alejandro Falla had a 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 win over Marcel Granollers and will play another Spaniard in the next round - No. 26 Nicolas Almagro beat Germany's Benjamin Becker 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3.

Davydenko beat both top-ranked Federer and No. 2 Nadal on his way to two titles in the last two months, including the Qatar Open this month where he saved two match points in a comeback win over Nadal in the final.

His best run at the Australian Open ended in a fourth-round loss in 2008. He did not play here last year due to a left heel injury, breaking a streak of 29 straight Grand Slam tournaments back to the 2001 U.S. Open.

If players progress according to their seedings, Davydenko would meet 15-time Grand Slam singles champion Federer in the quarterfinals here.

Only seven matches into her comeback, Justine Henin held off fifth-ranked Elena Dementieva 7-5, 7-6 (6), winning the last three points of the tiebreaker to clinch a second-round victory worthy of a final on Wednesday night. She ended it on her second match point—24 minutes after she missed her first chance against the Olympic champion.

Henin, who retired in May 2008 while she was ranked No. 1, knows she's capable of reproducing the form that took her to seven major singles titles.

Photos purport to show Woods at rehab center

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—That sure looks like Tiger Woods. The face. The rounded shoulders. The eyes staring out from under a cap. Celebrity Web site radaronline.com says the next issue of the *National Enquirer* will feature photos of the world's No. 1 golfer at Pine Grove Behavioral Health and Addiction Services in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The site posted eight photos that purport to show Woods—wearing white shorts and a dark hooded sweatshirt—at the Pine Grove facility where the Gentle Path sexual addiction program is conducted.

Calls to the *National Enquirer* were not immediately returned Wednesday afternoon. Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, declined to comment on the photo or whether Woods was at the clinic.

If the photos are authentic, they would be the first of Woods since he appeared at halftime of the Stanford-Cal football game Nov. 21 when he was inducted into Stanford's sports Hall of Fame. Six days later, Woods crashed his SUV into a tree outside his home in Florida, setting off a stunning downfall over allegations of rampant extramarital affairs.

Woods eventually confessed to infidelity, and he said he would take an indefinite break from golf while he tries to save his marriage.

He hasn't been seen in public since the Nov. 27 accident.

And since then, reporters have tried to find one of the most famous athletes in the world, reporting that he has been spotted everywhere from Arizona to Africa, from New York to the Bahamas. No one has been able to come up with a photo, which industry officials have estimated would be worth $100,000 or more.

Until, perhaps, now.

The photos obtained by the *National Enquirer* show a man resembling Woods looking directly at the camera as he walks out the Pine Grove clinic carrying a styrofoam cup.

He shares Woods' physique, facial makeup—unshaven, with signs of a goatee—and even appears to be wearing a cap with the golfer's logo.

The pictures appear to have been taken from outside the facility with a telephoto lens while a gate that allows vehicles to pass in and out was open. The compound is ringed with a weathered wooden fence, about 8 feet tall, and dotted with brick buildings, like the one in the background of the photos.

There's a sign on the fence with the logo of Forrest General Hospital, which owns Pine Grove.

Officials at the clinic would neither confirm nor deny his presence, noting that it would be a violation of federal privacy law.

Pine Grove is one of the nation's top addiction treatment facilities. Treatment at the Gentle Path compound lasts up to six weeks.

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DEDEDO Calvo's Center 637-RENT Behind Johndel's Supermarket
SAIPAN Middle Road 234-RENT Next to Subway

PROSPECTS

From Page 36

throw line hit Leo Factor.

Factor connected on a layup from the right wing off a cross-court pass from Brendon Talania to tie the game, 96-all, with three seconds left in regulation. Factor stepped into the foul line to take the bonus shot on the goal facing north with the strong winds blowing. He missed the free throw and Prospects' Chris Paul grabbed the rebound and did not had enough time and room to pull up for a shot.

In overtime, Advance played with a handicap, as Jun Estolas, Junar Guiab, and Kelvin Fitial had already fouled out in regulation. Soon, Pando Muleta, and Jorge De Guzman joined their three other teammates in the showers.

Pelisamen tried to carry Advance on his shoulders, but even a reliable free throw shooter like him could not beat the heavy winds that affected the direction of his shots. Pelisamen trooped the foul line 10 times and made only two free shots.

Advance's misfortunes in the free throw rubbed off on its field goal shooting, as the team was held to only a field goal in extension on Pelisamen's triple.

The backcourt duo of Quincy Johnson and Cadagat teamed up with Paul in overtime, as the trio scored 13 of the team's 21 points to lift Prospects to the finals.

In the second game, except for minor complaints from players from both camps, Noni and Ol'Aces had their tempers in check, leaving fans the opportunity to have a heated confrontation off the court.

Noni Saipan supporters were in their usual frenzied mood, egging their team to rally. At the back of Ol'Aces bench were several Diamond players, who obviously were cheering for Noni's foe. With Ol'Aces ahead, 54-45 in the last 41 seconds in the third period, an irate White Capalad of Diamond suddenly went to the opposite side of the court and confronted a Noni Saipan fan. Fortunately, cooler heads stepped in and prevented further altercation.

Action resumed after both camps parted ways and league volunteers reminded spectators that the action was on the court, not outside.

Ol'Aces picked up where it left off and had the game in the bag midway in the fourth period when Dan Barcinas started the team's breakaway.

After trailing in the first period, 10-24, Noni can't seem to get its fastbreak game going against Ol'Aces' man-to-man defense. Ol'Aces also did a great job in rebounding, preventing any second chance points for Noni.

Free throw woes and limited success from outside made matters worse for Noni. In contrast, basketball looked easy for Ol'Aces, as they consistently made short jumpers, nailed underneath baskets, and escaped with fastbreak layups.

First Game

Prospects 117 – Johnson 38, Cadagat 28, Paul 15, Peredo 6, Lauron 6, Pagarao 4, Inos 4, Sanciangco 4, Wright 5, Moises 3.

Advance 102 – Pelisamen 44, Muleta 14, Guiab 14, Estolas 8, Fitial 7, De Guzman 6, Factor 2, Talania 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-19, 49-38, 72-66, 96-96, 117-102.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 81 – Barcinas 24, Iguel 11, Camacho 10, Tumaquip 7, Diaz 7, Lizama 6, Olaitiman 6, White 4, Omar 4.

Noni Saipan 66 – De Vero 20, Bernardo 18, Demapan 14, Abuel 6, Tamayo 6.

Scoring by quarters: 24-10, 42-39, 56-46, 81-66.

DOLPHINS

From Page 36

ond half with a two-pointer and went on to add six more points. Darag tallied seven, as he and Moran lifted MHS to a nine-point win. Darag top-scored for the Dolphins with 18, while Moran chipped in 12.

Southern's varsity team foiled an MHS sweep after limiting the Dolphins to 11 points in the first half.

Melvin Cadiang drilled seven of his nine points in the first half, giving Southern an 18-11 lead. MHS never recovered from thereon, as the Dolphins continued to have an off night, offensively. Ionis Rasa was the lone double figure scorer for MHS with 12 and the Dolphins' second best contributor, Heartim Williams, tallied only five.

Southern had seven players making at least two field goals each.

The victory was Southern's first, as it bowed to Kagman last week.

Also entering the win column in the varsity division was Grace Christian Academy, which routed Mt. Carmel School on Friday, 64-38.

The Eagles' Luther Taylor played like a man possessed, exploding for 28 points. Kevin Deleon Guerrero added 12.

MCS fell behind by only 11 at the half, 19-30, with Tim Taguchi keeping the Knights afloat. However, the Eagles pulled away in the second half, as the Knights failed to stop Taylor inside.

Taylor had six teammates helping him out in giving GCA the win, while MCS had only three players making it to the scoreboard.

Junior Varsity

MHS 52 – Darag 18, Moran 12, Limes 8, Caro 7, Vertudez 7.

SSHS 43 – Ni. Salem 12, Sablan 8, Escalada 9, Alegre 5, Ne. Salem 2, Mariano 2, Oei 2, Tudela 2.

Scoring by halves: 23-28, 51-43.

Varsity

SSHS 45 – Duenas 9, Cadiang 9, Ecalnea 6, Jung 6, Pepito 6, Benavente 4, Villanueva 3, Fleming 2.

MHS 30 – Rasa 12, Williams 5, Aughenbaugh 2, Manalili 4, Metran 2, Francisco 2, Sampemang 2, Duatin 1.

Scoring by halves: 18-11, 45-30.

GCA 64 – Taylor 28, Deleon 12, D.M. Jeong 10, Salas 6, Lewis 3, Hong 3, Dela Cruz 2.

MCS 38 – T. Taguchi 25, Baka 7, Kautz 6.

Scoring by halves: 30-19, 64-38.

ANYTHING

From Page 36

didn't bother looking toward the dugout, afraid they might yank him then and there.

Junior stepped in the batter's box with the smallest strike zone in the league. The Aces manager Felix had only put in the 9-year-old rookie the previous inning because league rules required him to play everyone on the roster. Junior was 4'2" and weighed 68 lbs. His parents had prodded him to play even if he wasn't physically ready, but the boy had spunk, attitude that overcomes shortcomings.

Joey reared back and fired the ball as hard as he could, although he didn't need to as it was just a waste of energy against an overmatched hitter. The fastball sailed over Junior's head all the way to the fence. He swung and missed anyway.

Every Aces fan, player and coach yelled at him, don't swing! And for the rest of his bat he didn't. The next four pitches were all balls and the Aces had runners on first and second with the tying run coming to the plate.

Lucy grabbed the bat her father Sam had bought her just the week before. Sam had played in the Saipan Major League, putting an Easton to good use before Lucy was born. Sam didn't have a son but he did have a daughter blessed with some natural ability and enough fortitude to play with the boys and he vowed to make sure she was well-equipped which included the right sized bat.

Like Junior, Lucy had only entered the game in the fifth inning because Felix had no choice. She had played sparingly in the league as an 11-year-old but had not managed to get any base hits. Now she was a year older, more developed and confident.

Joey's first pitch just missed the outside corner. Last season, Lucy would have swung and missed. But she had taken extra batting practice in preparing for this season, and had a better feel for the strike zone. Ball one.

Tony asked for time out to talk to his budding star. He knew he had other boys who could pitch but Joey was his best player and he knew he had to handle the situation properly as it could very well set the tone for the rest of the season. "Your pitch count is up to 83. This is your last batter. Can you get her out? You've pitched great but we got other boys ready too," he said straight.

The sixth grader nodded his head and looked his manager in the eye, "Let me do it."

Tony patted his pitcher on the shoulder and walked back to the dugout without saying anything.

Joey's next pitch was right down the middle. Strike one.

Lucy dug in deeper with the new cleats Sam had bought last payday.

The next pitch has high and hard. Lucy swung and was lucky to just get enough bat on the ball for a foul. The count was 1-2. Joey had reached his pitch limit but Little League rules allow the pitcher to finish the hitter's at bat.

Joey's catcher Marcus called for a curve ball, not Joey's best pitch. The ball came to the plate at knee level. Lucy started to swing but seeing the ball spin, she held back and the ball bounced past Marcus to the backstop. Timmy and Junior moved up 60 feet.

The next pitch was low and away. Full count.

Joey for the first time in the game felt tired, his arm heavy. He was one pitch away from a complete game shutout in his first game of 2010 but he was also within one pitch of giving it all away.

Marcus yelled encouragement at his battery mate and called for a fast ball down the middle.

Joey delivered but not with the speed he had earlier. Lucy swung late but good enough for a fair ball down the right field line. Timmy and Junior raced home.

Lucy thought she had a double. As she was running to second, the 9-year old right fielder, who entered the game as a substitute the previous inning, over ran the ball. The Aces coach waved her toward third base. The right fielder, playing in the first real game of his life, threw the relay throw into left field.

Lucy raced home. By the time the Bays got the ball to the infield, the Aces were celebrating their amazing 3-2 come-from-behind victory and Joey was walking off the field not knowing what to think.

Editor's Note: The above story is completely fictional, simply the product of the author's excitement over a new baseball season.

ADVANCE

From Page 36

inning. Second baseman Dennis Ngeskebei also helped X-Terminators' cause, adding six RBIs. He was 5-for-6 at bat and scored three runs, two doubles, and one homer.

Outfielder John Acosta, Manny Cabrera, and Bob Castro contributed two RBIs each for Advance, which moved out of the bottom of the team standings. Replacing Advance at the cellar of the 21-team field was Ramblers, who hold a 1-6 slate. Team Familia shared Advance's record.

Natibu 17, Berdax 14

Natibu remained on top of the league with its 7-0 slate.

The league-leading team kept its unbeaten mark after downing Berdax, 17-14.

J.R. Suel and B.J. Sablan posted four RBIs each in Natibu's victory. Sablan blasted a grandslam in the third inning, sparking Natibu's run.

Berdax led, 9-3, after two and a half innings, before an 11-run bottom of the third put Natibu in front, 14-9. Natibu never relinquished the lead, shutting out Berdax in the last two innings after giving up five runs in the fifth inning.

Blazers 17, G-Ballers 7

In the first game, Blazers snapped G-Ballers' two-game winning run, following the former's 17-7 victory.

Justin Sablan and George Camacho tallied three RBIs each for Blazers, who took a 7-0 lead after the first inning and never looked back.

The win was Blazers third in six games, while the loss was G-Ballers fifth in seven matches.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	13	.675	–
Toronto	21	22	.488	7 1/2
New York	17	24	.415	10 1/2
Philadelphia	13	28	.317	14 1/2
New Jersey	3	38	.073	24 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	27	14	.659	–
Orlando	27	15	.643	1/2
Charlotte	21	19	.525	5 1/2
Miami	21	20	.512	6
Washington	14	27	.341	13

Central Division

Cleveland	32	11	.744	–
Chicago	18	22	.450	12 1/2
Milwaukee	17	23	.425	13 1/2
Detroit	15	26	.366	16
Indiana	14	28	.333	17 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	28	14	.667	–
San Antonio	25	16	.610	2 1/2
Houston	23	18	.561	4 1/2
Memphis	22	19	.537	5 1/2
New Orleans	22	19	.537	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	27	14	.659	–
Portland	26	17	.605	2
Oklahoma City	24	18	.571	3 1/2
Utah	24	18	.571	3 1/2
Minnesota	9	34	.209	19

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	32	9	.780	–
Phoenix	25	18	.581	8
L.A. Clippers	19	22	.463	13
Sacramento	15	26	.366	17
Golden State	12	28	.300	19 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 108, Sacramento 97
Charlotte 104, Miami 65
Dallas 94, Washington 93
Portland 98, Philadelphia 90
Orlando 109, Indiana 98
Detroit 92, Boston 86
Milwaukee 113, Toronto 107
Oklahoma City 94, Minnesota 92
New Orleans 113, Memphis 111
Phoenix 118, New Jersey 94
Utah 105, San Antonio 98
Denver 123, Golden State 118, OT
L.A. Clippers 104, Chicago 97

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	35	361	295	1049	30.0
James, CLE	43	439	319	1271	29.6
Durant, OKC	41	398	339	1194	29.1
Bryant, LAL	41	431	250	1161	28.3
Wade, MIA	40	382	285	1087	27.2
Ellis, GOL	39	407	186	1028	26.4
Nowitzki, DAL	40	366	259	1018	25.5
Bosh, TOR	42	346	300	998	23.8
Roy, POR	39	324	212	914	23.4
Jamison, WAS	31	261	132	704	22.7
Arenas, WAS	32	253	153	722	22.6
Johnson, ATL	40	333	115	851	21.3
Stoudemire, PHX	42	333	208	874	20.8
Evans, SAC	36	276	178	749	20.8
Randolph, MEM	40	328	166	826	20.7
Kaman, LAC	36	309	118	736	20.4
Gay, MEM	38	292	158	774	20.4
Maggette, GOL	38	242	269	760	20.0
Duncan, SAN	37	299	141	739	20.0
Jackson, CHA	39	281	155	774	19.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	193	302	.639
Gasol, MEM	223	365	.611
Howard, ORL	228	377	.605
Horford, ATL	229	393	.583
Hilario, DEN	216	372	.581
Stoudemire, PHX	333	594	.561
Lee, NYK	326	584	.558
Bynum, LAL	246	441	.558
Landry, HOU	240	432	.556
Duncan, SAN	299	542	.552

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	41	151	385	536	13.1
Noah, CHI	39	153	328	481	12.3
Camby, LAC	39	120	334	454	11.6
Randolph, MEM	40	179	280	459	11.5
Wallace, CHA	38	83	346	429	11.3
Lee, NYK	41	97	364	461	11.2
Bosh, TOR	42	126	341	467	11.1
Haywood, WAS	39	166	251	417	10.7
Boozer, UTA	41	80	355	435	10.6
Duncan, SAN	37	107	279	386	10.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	32	359	11.2
Nash, PHX	42	465	11.1
Rondo, BOS	38	369	9.7
Williams, UTA	37	355	9.6
Kidd, DAL	41	373	9.1
B. Davis, LAC	40	325	8.1
James, CLE	43	334	7.8
Westbrook, OKC	41	306	7.5
Arenas, WAS	32	230	7.2
Duhon, NYK	41	254	6.2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	7	0
Island Rebels	5	0
Man Amigos	6	1
SaiPal	5	1
Chura	5	1
San Roque	3	2
Freedom Air Flyers	4	2
Ur Balls	4	2
6-Pack	4	3
Hitz	4	3
Calikano-Falcons	3	3
Blazers	3	3
Red Eye	2	4
G-Ballers	2	5
Berdax	1	4
Team Familia	1	5
Go For Broke	2	5
Lancheros	1	5
Team Fuegu	1	5
X-Terminators	1	5
Ramblers	1	6

MISO STANDINGS

Varsity

KHS	2	0
SSHS	2	1
MHS	1	1
GCA	1	1
MCS	0	3

Junior Varsity

KHS	1	0
MHS	1	0
SSHS	0	2
MCS	0	0

48 entered in opening week of Tennis Challenge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge will kick off its two-weekend competition with the junior singles action at the American Memorial Park tennis courts tomorrow.

Organizer Loyola Sports Promotion lured 48 players for junior singles, which is divided into five divisions, namely Level 1 beginners, Level 1 open, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4.

Level 1's beginners division has 13 entries in Julie Song, Billy Park, Malika Miyaki, Ami Tsukagoshi, Minju Kim, Jay Song, Quiming Park, Eric and Max Jang, Tania Tan, Eugene Park, Dychya Bhuja, and Minsik Kim.

Miyaki, Tsukagoshi, and Minsik Kim will also play in Level 1's open division, joining Phailai Frink, Gio Song, John Song, Erick and Grace Kim, and Seung Jae Kim.

Level 2 will have 13 players in Satoshi Ohtsu, Julian and Ja Briossos, Amy Taylor, Sam Soledad, Jin Hui Deng, Lucy Park, Kwang Jae Kim, Michael Jones, Tiffany and Alfie Madlambayan, Peter Jin Deng, and Steven Goodwin.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carl Dela Cruz is entered in Level 4 competition of the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge that will take place this weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Leading Level 3 participants are siblings Julia and Alina Ishikawa. Also on the list are Clayton Izuka, Alex Park, Emily Jones, Ilia Corella, Kevin Rhee, and Moris Villanueva.

The most advanced players in the field will be competing in Level 4 division. They are Angelo Jones, Kennedy Izuka, Carl Dela Cruz, Chris Park, Colin and Quintin Ramsey, and Daniel Park.

The Junior singles will all be co-ed and will have a double-elimination format. Games will run until Sunday.

The second and final weekend of the competition is for adult players and will run from Jan. 30 and 31, also at the AMP courts. Adults singles will have separate competitions for men's and women's divisions in four categories, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, and open.

Adults singles are expected to draw players vying for slots on the CNMI Team that will compete in the Micronesian Games in Palau this year.

"Games in the adults singles will help these players intensify their training for the Micro Games," said Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis instructor Peter Loyola.

Meanwhile, Loyola thanked the following for supporting the two-weekend tournament: major sponsors Tan Siu Lin Foundation, IT&E, AMS Typhoon Shutters, and Shirley's Coffee Shop and secondary sponsors Triple J Motors, Quality Distributors, PSG Professional Corp., Izuka family, MEARS Company, and Pacific Islands Club.

March races are good reason for New Year's resolution to get in shape

March in the Northern Mariana Islands brings an abundance of racing events for the serious athlete, as well as everyone who enjoys running on a beautiful tropical island.

Co-sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority, all these races offer local residents and visitors a unique opportunity to indulge in the sport of running while being treated to the beauties of the Northern Marianas.

The month starts with the 2010 Winter Festival of Runs on March 6, a trio of runs that includes a full marathon (26.2 miles/42.195 kilometers), a half marathon (13.1 miles/21.1km), and a fun run of 10km (6.2 miles).

Each run includes five age divisions: 19 and under, 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; and 50 and Up. Entrance fee for the full marathon is $55.00, with $45.00 for the half marathon and fun run. Registration deadline is Feb. 19, 2010 for all events, and those who register before Jan. 16, 2010, save $10 from the registration fee. For more information, contact Kurt Barnes at 235-5853 or kurtproa@yahoo.com or Edward Diaz 664-3200/01 or ediaz@mymarianas.com.

One week later, March 13, will see the 9th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship, an international sporting event that takes place on some of the most rugged terrains and jungles of Saipan. The XTERRA is an extreme triathlon challenge that includes a 1.5km swim, a 12km trail run, and a 30km mountain bike race. One of 17 worldwide events, the Saipan XTERRA is known as the "crown jewel" of them all. It offers the chance to race your way to the Maui XTERRA World Championship, and provides a battleground for an exclusive field. Deadline for entries is Wednesday, March 10, 2010. For more information on this international outdoor competition contact MVA at 664-3200/01 or mva@mymarianas.com or check out the websites at www.xterraplanet.com or www.saipansports.com.

March 20 sees the last—but not least—in the March trio of races. The annual Tagaman Triathlon features a 2km swim beginning in the crystal clear waters at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, a 60km bike along the island's beautiful bike courses, and a 15km run along the western lagoon and through the American Memorial Park. Cash prizes are given for top six male and female finishers as well as trophies to age group winners. Registration is Thursday, March 18, 2010 at the Pacific Islands Club Game Room from 3am to 5am. For more information contact Diaz 664-3200/01 or ediaz@mymarianas.com, Marie Barlongan at 234-6959 or visit www.saipansports.com.

"This is an astonishing opportunity of racing events for all—the serious athlete and those who run for fun," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio."Whether it involves shipping a bike or just throwing a pair of running shoes in their bag, international athletes come back year after year in order to be able to participate in these exciting races. We look forward to again hosting all the great people who visit our islands in March."

For more information about any of these activities, contact Diaz at 664-3200 or ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan rush to the waters off Micro Beach. The 2010 edition of the Crown Jewel of XTERRA Tour will be held on March 13.

Kapileo sets score to beat for RGA January Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Refaluwasch Golf Association had its first tournament of the season with Ulysis Kapileo besting 12 other participants in the January Ace qualifier played on Sunday at Coral Ocean Point.

Rogolifoi

The 18-handicapper Kapileo carded a net 68 and gross 86 after firing a 42 on the front and a 44 on the back. Kapileo's score must be beaten in RGA's tournament on Jan. 31 or he gets to keep the January Ace title.

Kapileo won RGA's season-opening tournament by two strokes against new member Nick Leon Guerrero. A 49 and 45 on the front and back nines, respectively, gave the 24-handicapper Leon Guerrero a net 70 and gross 94.

Longtime RGA member and former club president Jess Wabol finished third after tallying a net 73. Wabol shot the lowest gross of the day with his 3-over par 75, built on a 37 on the front nine and 38 on the back.

Other RGA members who joined last weekend's tournament and their net scores in parentheses were Joe Saures 977), Xiang Lai Cui (76), Jesse Seman (74), Tars Olopai (75), Asterio Tawanpiy (79), newcomer Emory Kaipat (89), Tony Rogolifoi (86), Ed Tenorio (79), Tom Tebuteb (83), and Dwaine Stephens (77).

The 17-handicapper Saures fired a 44 and 50 on the front and back nine; Lai hit a 45 and 44; Seman drilled a 40 and 41; Olopai tallied a 40 and 42; Tawanpiy recorded a 44 and 42; Kaipat carded a 58 and 55; Tenorio shot a 42 and 49; Tebuteb posted a 51 and 53; and Stephens nailed a 48 and 43.

Wabol and Saures made closest to the pin shots on hole No. 7 and 14, respectively.

Meanwhile, RGA is encouraging its members to participate in the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. Golf Fundraising Tournament on Jan. 30 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

More than 2K await winners in SLLB golf fundraiser

Cash prizes totaling $2,400 await top placers in the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. Golf Fundraising Tournament that will be held in the greens and fairways of Laolao Bay Golf Resort on Jan. 30.

The fundraiser will give away cash prizes for the Top 6 placers in the double-peoria contest with the first finisher getting $500, $400 for second, $300 for third, $200 for fourth, and $100 each for fifth and sixth.

In the lowest net gross in the men's division, the champion will get $200, while the Top 3 finishers in the women's low gross category will take home $300, $200, and $100.

On top of these cash prizes is a 2010 Mazda 3-I 4-door hole-in-one prize on the par-3 No. 17 hole. The brand new car hole-in-one prize is courtesy of Triple J Motors.

"Mulligans will be sold at $5 apiece and each player may purchase up to four mulligan tickets. There will also be closest to pin challenge on holes No. 7 and 13 and each hole will cost $10. Top winners of these challenging holes will also receive cash prizes. In-kind prizes will be raffled away after the tournament," SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi said in a media release.

Rogolifoi is encouraging CNMI golfers to join next week's event, as all proceeds from the tournament will be used for the operational expenses of the 2010 SLLB season. The SLLB head is also calling on companies to support the fundraiser.

"The Saipan Little League is inviting interested individuals and members of the business community to support this event by sponsoring a hole. As a sponsor, your company name and logo will be advertised on the course and recognized at the player's banquet over at the hotel's poolside. For donations, contact Rose Igitol at 287-1129," Rogolifoi added.

SLLB will open its 2010 season on Feb. 21 with competitions in four divisions, namely Majors, Junior, Senior, and Big League. Games will be played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

For more information, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515, vice president Ben Jones at 285-1952, treasurer Walter Macaranas at 483-9258, or Manny Tenorio at 323-8366. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

48 entered in opening week of Tennis Challenge

The 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge will kick off its two-weekend competition with the junior singles action at the American Memorial Park tennis courts tomorrow. **35**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jazz extends dominance over Spurs

Carlos Boozer had 31 points and 13 rebounds, leading the Utah Jazz to a fourth victory over the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA this season, winning 105-98 on Wednesday. **32**

Prospects vs Ol'Aces in UBA finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Prospects and New Fresh Ol'Aces set the stage for the title showdown in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League after recording contrasting semifinal wins on Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Prospects needed five extra minutes to thwart pennant champion Advance X-Terminators in the first semis match of the night, 117-102. In the second semis pairing, Ol'Aces had an easier time dispatching Noni Saipan, 81-66.

UBA
UNIFIED BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Game 1 of the Prospects-Ol'Aces best-of-three championship series will be played tonight at 7pm.

With two finals seats on the line, Wednesday's semifinals games drew out intense action, on and off the court, in another cold and windy night.

On-court tussles almost blew up on several occasions in the Prospects-Advance tiff, as players from both camps played a very physical game.

Advance's Freddie Pelisamen gave up an unsportsmanlike foul against Bonbon Cadagat in the last 21 seconds of regulation following a no-call on his layup earlier. Prospects' Ernie Moises elbowed a Noni player in a rebound play in overtime. With only 35 seconds remaining in overtime, it was Advance's William Opone's turn to commit a deliberate foul after elbowing Cadagat.

Moises and Opone were later meted suspensions. Moises is barred from playing 10 games in UBA-sanctioned leagues and the suspension will start in tonight's finals. Opone was charged with a 15-game suspension. Also getting penalized was Diamond's Tim Wesley, who was slapped with a five-game suspension on an attempt to elbow a Noni player in their playoff duel on Tuesday.

The semis loss against Prospects was very disappointing for Advance, as the latter was favored to make it all the way to the finals after sweeping the one-round regular season.

X-Terminators was only a free throw away from moving into the championship round when the "curse" of the free

See PROSPECTS on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Prospects' Chris Paul, center, beats Advance's Leo Factor for the rebound, while teammate Mike Wright looks on during their semis game in the UBA caging on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Dolphins, Rays split games; Eagles win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School split their games in the 2010 MISO Basketball League last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins topped the Rays in the junior varsity game, 51-43, while Southern prevailed in the varsity division match, 45-30.

Southern had a good chance of winning in the junior varsity game and bouncing back from a debut loss to Kagman High School last week when the Rays recovered in the closing minutes of the first half and took a 28-23 lead at the break.

MHS went ahead by as much as nine, 18-7, in the opening quarter behind John Darag. However, the Dolphins were rattled by the Rays pressure defense in the closing phase of the first half, resulting to the latter's easy baskets and putting Southern in front by five at halftime.

In the second half, MHS regained control of the game with Darag drawing help from Michael Moran. Moran, who scored the Dolphins' first four points in the first half, started the sec-

See DOLPHINS on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Dolphins' Lester Vertudez goes for a layup against the Rays' Nicko Salem during their game in the junior varsity division of the MISO caging on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Advance breaks into win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Finally, Advance X-Terminators made it to the win column in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slowpitch Softball League, following a 26-13 triumph over Team Familia on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Starting pitcher J.J. Cabrera led Advance's first win in six games, drilling seven RBIs. He went only 3-for-5 at the plate, but hit a grand slam in the second

See ADVANCE on Page 34

Carl Hocog, seen here waiting for the pitch, plays catcher for Natibu, which defeated Berdax, 17-14, in the Chamolinian league on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Anything's possible

Joey took the ball from his catcher with fierce determination. He didn't say anything, didn't need to say anything. Everyone at Tan Ge Field knew the young star wanted to finish what he had started.

The score was 2-0 in the bottom of the sixth inning with the Jays leading the Aces in the season opener. The 12-year-old was in his last season of the major division of Little League, his last chance to make the all-stars, to win an award or championship, and the even slimmer but nonetheless real opportunity to accomplish the dream of every Little Leaguer—to go to Williamsport for the World Series. First he needed to win this game.

The lanky lefty got the first two outs easily but walked the next batter Timmy. Joey didn't exactly know his pitch count but it had to be getting close to the limit by rule of 85. The Bays manager Tony looked out from the dugout, trying to discern any sign that his pitcher was tiring. Joey, knowing that the coaches were looking at him,

See ANYTHING on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2